KEEP STRONG

HUEY FREE ON BAIL!
Special Interview Inside

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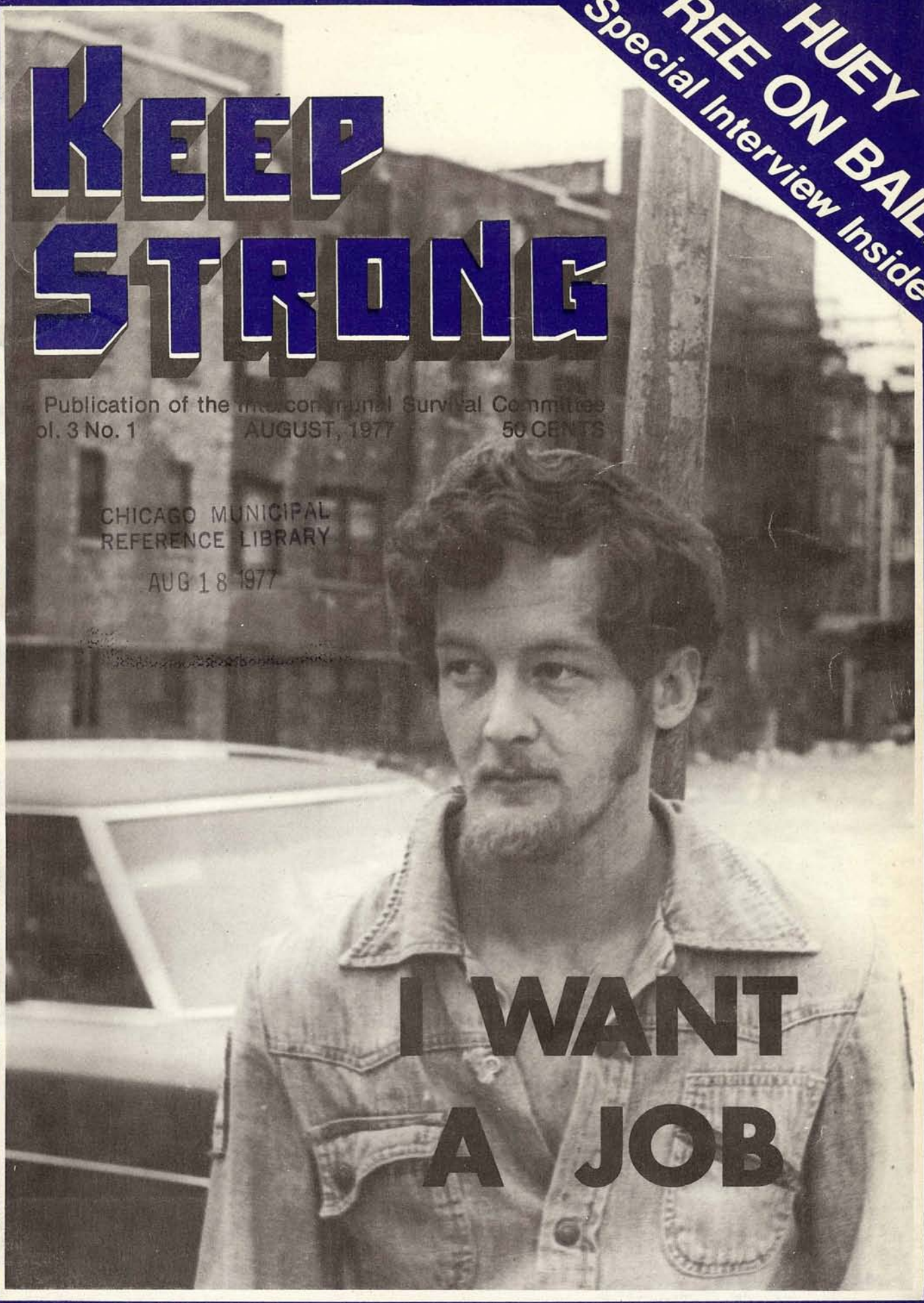

I WANT A JOB

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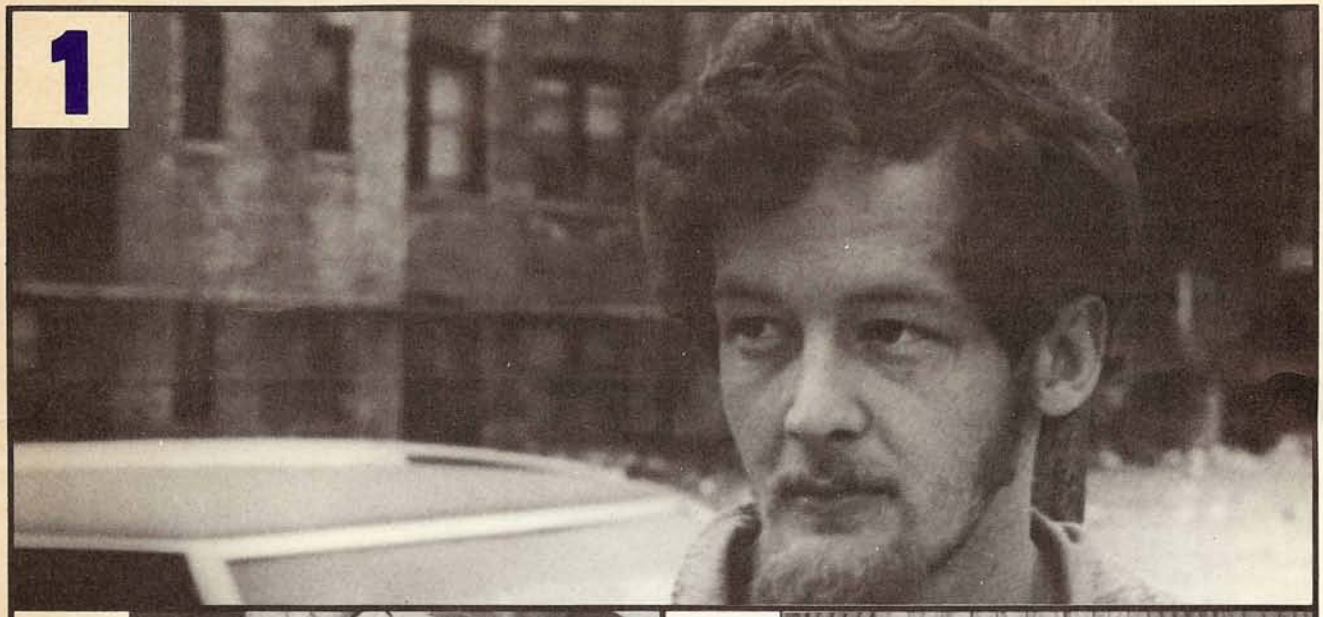

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In This Issue

1. Carter and the architects of the masterplan talk about the problem of unemployment, but propose to solve it by spreading the unemployed around, destroying their communities, so they are less visible. See Editorial, page 2.

2. Huey P. Newton, recently returned Founder and President of the Black Panther Party, explains the Party's demand for full employment in this special interview. See page 32.

3. The Second Annual KEEP STRONG Banquet, held in Chicago, July 23, highlighted the theme "Resist the Masterplan." See page 30.

4. For Chicago's Uptown community, the only thing left that stands between them and the new health clinic is for the Cook County Health and Hospital Governing Commission to release the funds. See page 26.

5. The electricity blackout in New York City last month, signaled the sorely deteriorating conditions in this city's oppressed communities. See page 44.

EDITORIAL

WHO IS FOR FULL EMPLOYMENT ?

To survive we need food, housing, clothing and health care. These things, in this country, cost money. Each day they seem to cost more and more money. The best way to get this money is to get a job that pays a living wage. It would seem that this country with all its wealth and technology could provide full employment: a job for everyone who wanted to work for a decent wage. But it doesn't, and those in power do not intend it to in the future.

The millions of us without jobs, however, concern them. We are a problem to them. We are an expense to them. We are a threat to them. They could easily devise a plan to give us full employment, but instead they have chosen a cheaper plan to cut down the expense and eliminate the threat without developing full employment and, therefore, solve their *problem less expensively. Their plan will not, obviously, solve our problem: to survive with dignity and justice.*

The city planners, politicians and financial interests have divided the people into three categories. The first group of people, "the employed," have jobs and live in neighborhoods where most people have jobs. The second group, "the employables," have work experience, good education, job skills and live in neighborhoods where industry has stayed in the city. The third group, "the unemployables," have no jobs, no skills and live in neighborhoods where few jobs exist and where most people, like themselves, are broke. The decision has been made to "forget" about those in group three when it comes to economic development and jobs and to wipe out those neighborhoods as quickly as possible through new versions of urban renewal.

The result of these masterplans (now a matter of public record and policy) would be to disperse the poor in small pockets of poverty throughout the country, away from the cities where they are now concentrated with potential political power. This will mean for group two, the "employables," that while they will continue to have a job some of the time, they will have nothing to fall back on when times get hard. The power base of poor and working people which now exists in the cities and which has won many basic survival services will be gone. With no power base,

PROFITS OF THE 15 LARGEST CHICAGO-BASED CORPORATIONS IN 1976 WHERE UNEMPLOYMENT IS ABOVE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE.

Company	1976 Profits
1. Standard Oil (Ind.)	$893,000,000
2. Sears, Roebuck & Co.	694,516,000
3. Commonwealth Edison	241,808,000
4. Beatrice Foods	180,000,000
5. Int'l Harvester	174,088,000
6. Kraft	135,650,000
7. Int'l Minerals & Chemicals	135,400,000
8. Household Finance	133,954,000
9. Cont'l Illinois	128,013,000
10. Santa Fe Industries	120,461,000
11. Northwest Industries	117,575,000
12. People's Gas Co.	112,988,000
13. McDonald's Corp.	110,052,000
14. First Chicago Corp.	105,640,000
15. Inland Steel	104,045,000

"The People's Plan, outlined by Huey P. Newton, calls for the corporations to cut down on their profits and for highly paid workers to cut down on their demands for still higher wages until employment has been provided for everyone to have a decent job."

when you are out of a job, you are just plain out of luck.

Huey P. Newton, returned President of the Black Panther Party, has suggested that we turn our energies to the fight for full employment. Huey's plan is a people's plan that calls for the corporations to cut down on their profits and for highly paid workers to cut down on their demands for still higher wages until employment has been provided for everyone to have a decent job. We will not settle for the welfare jobs Carter proposes, which offer less than the government defined poverty level. We will demand a job for everyone who will work at a wage that allows them to survive with security, dignity and justice.

The people's plan, suggested by Huey P. Newton, defines almost nobody as "unemployable," since it has been shown that even seriously handicapped people can do productive labor if given the chance. So who is for full employment? Carter, the corporations, the city planners and politicians talk about the problem of unemployment, but propose to solve it by spreading the unemployed around, destroying their communities, so they are less visible. Only the people, united and organized, can win the people's plan for full employment.□

ON THE STREET

THE NEUTRON BOMB KILLS PEOPLE BUT DOESN'T DESTROY PROPERTY. MANY PEOPLE HAVE SAID THAT THEY FEAR IT WILL BE USED IN URBAN AREAS. DO YOU THINK CARTER SHOULD HAVE APPROVED IT?

Cynthia Plummer
N. Kenmore

"They have to get rid of us somehow, don't they? Carter couldn't get rid of us all by cutting us off of welfare so they decided to put the neutron bomb out so that he could get rid of us."

Wilfredo Gonzalez
Gordon Terrace

"No, I don't think so, because I think it's going to destroy this world. I don't think it's right. I think they should call it off."

Annie Davis
N. Kenmore

"The answer is definitely no. I don't think he should have approved anything like that. He's supposed to be the leader of all the country; he's supposed to be leading us. No, I don't think he should have approved it."

Noreen Sak
N. Wayne

"No, I don't. I personally hate all the bombs for either country. I don't want anything around that's more destructive than what we've got already. I think the money ought to be spent towards making better national relations."

Nancy Mendoza
N. Clark

"I don't think they should have approved that at all. To kill people, I don't think that's right. They want to get rid of the people, I guess, and leave the buildings for some other people."

Huston Adkins
N. Malden

"No, I don't think he should. We don't want to destroy the people and not the cities. The city ain't no good if we destroy the people. And about Carter, he does a lot of monkey things."

Carolina Corpus
Garden City, Kansas

"No, because I don't think that's right. Because in urban areas, that's where people live, right? You can imagine—killing all the people."

Vicki Vernon
N. Marine Drive

"No, I don't think so. I think it was a deal. He didn't approve the bomber so that Congress would let him have the bomb. It has such a destructive potential. I mean, it can be used without fear; all the things we fear about the H-bomb aren't going to happen with that."

Brenda Taylor
W. Wilson

"Why destroy the people? Let's destroy some of the buildings and put up something better and save the people. For heaven's sake, we just got over a war, let's not have another one. This is how I feel."

Pilar Arendt
N. Sacramento

"I don't understand why, what is the purpose of destroying lives and not destroying property."

Manya Lambert
W. Sunnyside

"No. I don't know much about it, I just know it can hurt a lot of people and destroy a lot of things. A lot of people are upset about it."

WELFARE RIGHTS

Warning: Social Security Number Campaign Launched

(Chicago, Ill.) On Saturday, July 23, Juanita Bracken, who lives in Uptown, got a letter saying that she was cut off ADC because she did not keep her appointment at the "special office," located at 5140 N. Milwaukee Ave. The letter said she was to go there in order to get social security numbers for her children.

This was very strange because Juanita didn't even know that she had an appointment to go there. Besides that, she already had social security numbers for herself and her children and had shown these to welfare at least three times. As she stated, "Every time you get a new caseworker you have to show them everything again." The letter, dated July 14, said that if you disagree with this action, appeal it within 10 days. The 10 days had already passed. No attempt had been made by the special office or her caseworker to inform her that she had an appointment. Luckily, Juanita had called her caseworker a few days earlier about another matter and was told she would be cut off if she didn't call this special office. She did call and after explaining that her daughter was in the hospital having surgery, they gave her an extension and said to come in the following week.

Juanita is only one of the many hundreds of people on the northside who have recently received these letters. Some are told to appear at this special office on a certain day and time, while others, like Juanita, have received only the notice telling them they are cut off because they didn't show up for their appointment.

According to some public aid officials, the federal government has ordered them to get social security numbers from every ADC recipient, no matter what age. If this is not done by October 1 the federal government will stop funding the state's ADC program. Under current funding, the government pays $130 dollars on a monthly grant of $261.

According to these officials, the "special offices" were set up in order to handle the large numbers of people who will be getting social security numbers in the next couple of months. They are sending appointment letters to families on ADC where at least one member does not have a social security number or this number is not entered in the record.

What these officials could not explain, however, was why you have to bring all the social security cards for everyone in the family, plus birth certificates and other documents which are not required when you apply for a social security number at a regular social security office. Neither could they explain why you have to travel across the city to the "special office" which is the case for people in Uptown, when the local social security office is much closer to your home. Or why is it necessary to make this trip if you have already applied for a number at the local office and are only waiting for the social security card to arrive in the mail?

The only explanation, according to some observers, is that the state of Illinois is taking its own initiative, following the example set by Carter's welfare proposals, and trying to cut as many people off ADC as they can.

The special office on the northside has been open for about a month, but on the southside and the westside, where these offices opened in May, many people have already been cut off. Recipients who didn't keep their appointments, whether they knew about it or not, received a card with their check stating to come in within 10 days or "assistance will be terminated." Many people don't read the things that come with their checks, and were cut off this way. Recipients on the northside can expect these cards with their July or August check.

Juanita Bracken was almost cut off ADC for missing an appointment she never was informed of to get social security numbers for her children.

If you are on ADC, be sure to read everything that comes with your check!! If you get an appointment letter and can't make it on that day or that time, call and make a new appointment. If you receive a cut-off notice from the special office, again call and explain that you never got the appointment notice. They should give you a new appointment.

You always have the right to appeal, and if you do this within 10 days after receiving the cut-off notice, they cannot stop your checks until a decision is reached on your appeal. This usually takes at least a month.□

"If You Don't Get The Proof— You Don't Get The Food"

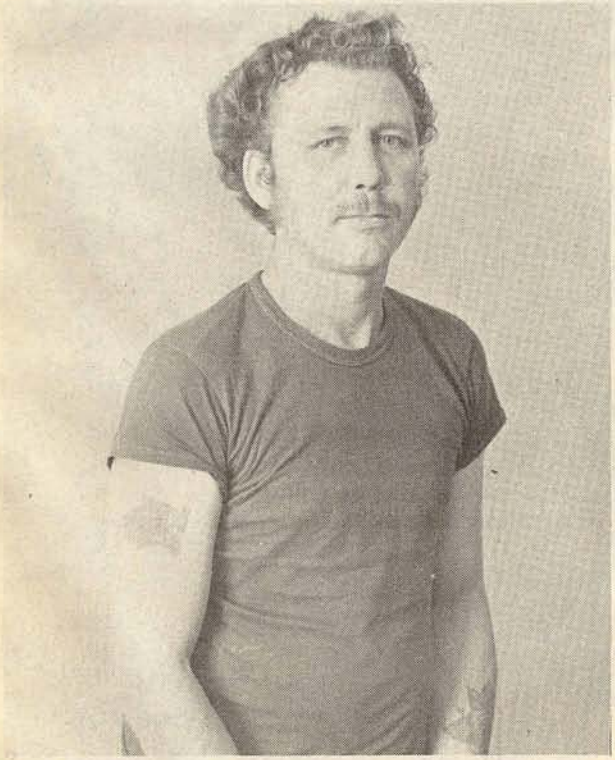
(Chicago, Ill.) Freddy Stone came back to Chicago last month with his four children. They had been living in Tennessee where Freddy was working odd jobs here and there, but found that he just wasn't making enough to support his family.

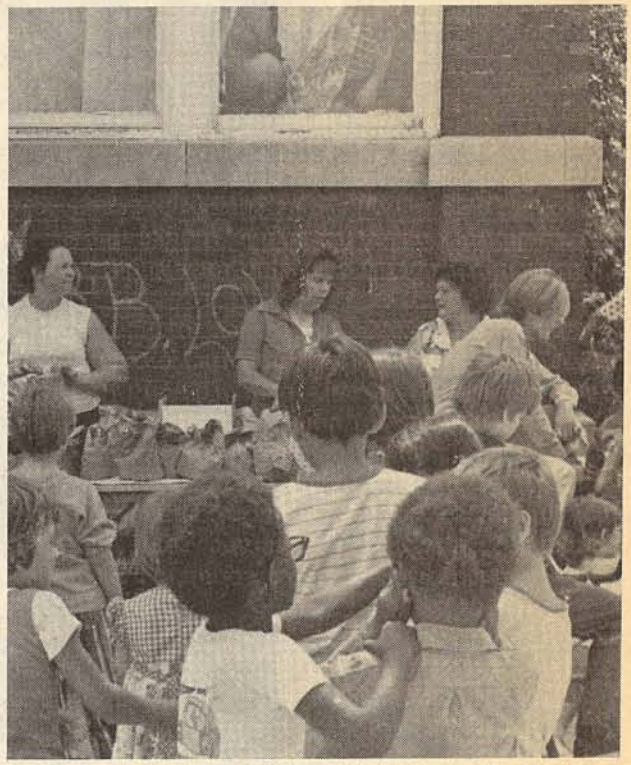
Once back in Chicago, they quickly ran out of money and had to go to public aid for help. As Freddy explains it: "I went to public aid on July 13 because I had no money and no food. I talked to a worker down there and asked him for emergency food stamps. He wanted proof of who I had worked for in Tennessee and how much I got paid. I told him that when I would fix someone's car or do a tune-up I didn't ask them their name and address. Sometimes I would get $10 and other times I might get $50. This man said if I didn't get the proof, I couldn't get the food stamps. They gave me an appointment to come back on July 26.

"All I wanted was the emergency food stamps. I can live without money but I can't live without food. We went for 13 days without having any food in the house. If it wasn't for the free lunch program on the mall, my kids probably would have starved to death.

"I went back on July 26, and they finally did give me the emergency food stamps. A couple of days later they sent a lady out, and she said I would get a check in 10 days. I still have not paid any rent on my apartment. The manager is letting us stay there until my first check comes."

A very similar situation happened to another family in Uptown. Mr. and Mrs. Justus came here from Alabama, hoping to be able to make a better life for themselves and their two children. They didn't find this, however, and after a short time found themselves in a desperate situation. They went to the public aid office and asked for some emergency assistance in the way of food stamps.





In an emergency, the welfare bureaucracy remains inflexible. Freddy Stone (left) and his four children were forced to go without food for 13 days except for the lunches served to his children at the People's Free Lunch Program (right) sponsored by the Uptown People's Community Service Center.

These were denied because the welfare worker said they did not have all the documents needed for welfare to decide their eligibility. Instead, they were given an appointment to return on August 3 for an interview, and to this date (July 31) they have not gotten any help from public aid at all.□

SSI Delayed To Disabled Child

(Brooklyn, N.Y.) There are thousands of families living in communities throughout New York City who have disabled children. One of the reasons that Supplemental Security Income (SSI) was instituted was to help people with disabilities supplement their incomes.

Mr. and Mrs. Petrosino (not their real name) live in Greenpoint with their two children, Mary, age 14, and Kevin, age 7. Kevin is an autistic (brain damaged) child.

On two separate occasions at two different Social Security Administration offices, Mrs. Petrosino attempted to apply for SSI benefits for her son, Kevin. Kevin is in need of special educational care as well as special day care. Mrs. Petrosino doesn't want to put her son in a foster home or an institution. She wants him to remain with his family, where she, her husband and her daughter can care for him.

At both Social Security offices, at both times, Mrs. Petrosino was turned away without having an application filed. She was told that her husband made too much money and, therefore, her son was not eligible for SSI. Mr. Petrosino works in a supermarket six days a week and takes home about $2.50 an hour, with no overtime pay.

After meeting Mrs. Petrosino in the community and hearing about the case, a representative from the Intercommunal Survival Committee went with her to the local Social Security office to once again try to file a claim for Kevin. This time the worker there filed an application for Kevin and told Mrs. Petrosino that there was a good chance that he would receive SSI benefits but would have to wait between one to four months because the SSA office was so swamped with paperwork and a backlog of cases. At this time, the Petrosinos are still waiting for an answer.

The Petrosino family is not alone in this kind of situation. Even after being turned away twice, Mrs. Petrosino was determined to keep pushing for what's coming to her son. "All I want for my son," Mrs. Petrosino said, "is a chance to learn and a chance to have some of his special needs taken care of so that he has a future to look forward to."□

Waiting at the welfare office in Chicago. In Greenpoint, Chicago, or most any place else, long waits due to excessive paperwork and a backlog of cases are commonplace. The Petrosinos are not alone in their long wait for a fair response to their claim for their disabled child.

DISABLED RIGHTS

Blind Mother Fights For Her Children

(Berkeley, Calif.) In recent months the fight to end discrimination against handicapped people has captured headlines across the country. While significant changes in law have occurred on paper, the real battle has yet to be won.

Linda Gill, 26, blind and a mother of three children, has been fighting for almost two years to regain custody of her children. The Probate Court of Ingham County, Michigan is threatening to take away Linda's parental rights and put the children up for adoption. Observers close to the case contend that Linda is being discriminated against because she is blind.

The story began in the fall of 1975, when Linda's former husband threw her out of the house. He had been viciously beating her up for awhile and continued to harass her once she was out. Fearing for the safety of herself and her children, Linda wanted to move out of state. Leaving the children with her mother, she traveled to California where a girl friend could help her get started again. A day after Linda left, her husband charged her with abandonment and later the court took her children.

Linda Gill, blind and a mother of three children, has been fighting for almost two years to regain custody of her children.

It took Linda three months to find out who her court-appointed lawyer was. Once she did he gave her bad advice and later dropped the case without notifying her. In April 1976, the probate court ordered evaluations of both parents. Ruth Austen of Alameda County (Calif.) Social Services turned in an excellent evaluation of Linda. But at the court hearing in July 1976, the probate court decided that the evaluation was not sufficient. The court has not defined at any point, however, what information is required for their evaluation.

On two occasions Linda's former husband filed to get custody of the children and then withdrew his request. He filed a third time and won custody of the children but three months later turned custody back over to the state.

Since coming to California, Linda has remarried and is working as a full-time volunteer at the Center for Independent Living (CIL). She plays an active role in removing the economic, social and architectural barriers that prohibit the disabled from full participation.

The final custody hearing is scheduled for September. The judge trying her case, Judge Owens, has refused to let Linda visit her children when she returns to Michigan for court appearances. He claims she might try to kidnap the children. Linda has not been with her children for almost two years and it looks to be a long time before she will be. Informed legal sources point out that more cases in Judge Owens' courtroom are appealed and later reversed than in any other judge's in the state of Michigan.

CIL is helping Linda and has arranged for a lawyer from the ACLU in Michigan to handle her case. Lynn Kidder, Public Relations Director of CIL, explained, "No one has actually come out and said she can't have her children because she's blind. It's a very subtle thing. The judge in Michigan won't ask her a direct question. He'll ask everyone else but her. It is implied throughout this case that because she's blind she can't take care of herself or her children. Linda is a highly responsible and caring parent. This type of discrimination has kept disabled people from enjoying and living life like any other human being."

Linda will need help in her defense and with the support of the people she will hopefully get a fair trial. Please send any contributions to: Linda Gill Defense Committee, c/o Center for Independent Living, 2539 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, California 94704.□

UNEMPLOYMENT

The Disability Catch 22

(Stockton, Calif.) "They say I can't work because I'm disabled, and they say I can't get disability because I can work. It don't make any sense," explains Ken Kennedy, 52. Mr. Kennedy has lived in Stockton for three years with his wife Darlene. He was a diesel mechanic for many years until an accident put his right eye out in 1957.

In 1959, the state of California retrained him as a transmission specialist. He began to work again but found that he would be laid off after only a few months at a job. "They had all these production quotas, and I just wasn't fast enough with only one good eye, so they laid me off," says Mr. Kennedy. "I could have had good jobs, but after a while it got so the insurance companies wouldn't insure me. They said I was too big a risk, so a company wouldn't even hire me."

Mr. Kennedy is very bitter about the insurance companies. "It was the big insurance companies that kept me out of work. Insurance companies," Mr. Kennedy goes on, "they keep you down, just like the establishment. I guess they are the establishment." Mrs. Kennedy adds, "I don't know why they don't insure us. If he got hurt they wouldn't pay off anyways. There's been three times they owed us money, and we didn't have the money to fight them."

Mr. Kennedy got his own shop for awhile, hoping that would work out. After awhile, though, the strain was so bad on his good eye he got severe headaches. Finally he closed down. Unable to work at all, the Kennedys wanted to get on disability. From 1972 until this day, the Kennedys have gotten the royal runaround.

For five years, meanwhile, they lived on general assistance which paid them $100 a month. "They used to give us a $35 rent voucher for a $50 rent," explains Mrs. Kennedy. In February of this year they began to receive SSI, which gave them $197 a month. Then Mr. Kennedy began to receive a non-service connected veteran's pension, which is $199 a month. They cut $97 of his SSI, leaving them with $296 a month to live on. After rent and utilities they have only $100 a month left. They are also ineligible for food stamps. He still has not been accepted for disability which would give them a few more dollars a month.

The Kennedys will tell you about the time they went to apply for low-income housing but were turned down because they were too poor. They were told that they had to make at least $7,000 a year. "Hell, I wouldn't need their help if I was making that much."

Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy: After an eye operation, Mr. Kennedy feels he can work again, but he's afraid that if he found a job he'd be laid off again after a few months.

Several months ago, Mr. Kennedy had an operation on his good eye, and now he feels he can work again. But, he is afraid that if he found a job he'd be laid off after a few months like before. They'd have to start all over again fighting to get something to live on. "We can't take a chance and end up with nothing. We can't live on nothing. They make liars, cheats and thieves out of you."

Mr. Kennedy hopes they'll make up their minds soon, either a decent job or enough to live on. "The state should give jobs for disabled people. I could work in the motor pool," says Mr. Kennedy. Mrs. Kennedy points out that "he could teach transmission work. He taught our three boys how to do it." "The U.S. government and the state have tougher physicals than private companies, but they say they want you to work," explains Mr. Kennedy. "They want you down and they keep you down. A lot of these welfare people would go to work but they keep you down."□

In Memoriam: Shirley Brewster

(Chicago, Ill.) Shirley Brewster was on her back porch at 4506 N. Magnolia on the night of July 13 when the porch structure suddenly collapsed. She died about an hour later at Weiss Memorial Hospital. In the eyes of many, Shirley Brewster, one of the original organizers of the Uptown Tenants Survival Union and an active participant in the community's day-to-day struggle for survival with human dignity, had given her life in the struggle for decent housing in the Uptown community.

Shirley Brewster, a mother of three, had come to Chicago from West Virginia about 15 years ago. She had come here seeking to create a better life for her children, better than she could provide back home. In Chicago she found much of the same conditions as she had faced in West Virginia and was continually worried about what kind of life the children of the community faced. She will be remembered by the people of the community as someone with strong convictions, a person who did not hesitate to take a stand on something that she knew was right, regardless of the personal price she had to pay. She believed very strongly that the people of the community had to put aside their petty differences and get together to solve some of the most basic problems, such as inadequate housing, high food prices and poor education for the children. Shirley Brewster did more than just talk about these needs.

To understand more clearly the struggle that Shirley gave her life to, one needs to take a closer look at the housing conditions in Uptown in general and the particular situation at 4506 N. Magnolia where Shirley was killed. According to the experts who examined the wood of the porches at 4506, the reason it collapsed was twofold; 1) faulty construction (the stress points of the structure were not correctly constructed); and 2) termite damage complicated by the severe weather which has existed in the Chicago area this year. Bitter cold, followed by very hot, humid weather, caused the wood to become brittle and weak. A routine examination by a structural engineer of 10 other porch structures on Magnolia Street indicate that most of the porches in Uptown were constructed incorrectly, in spite of the

In the eyes of many, Shirley Brewster, one of the original founders of the Uptown Tenants Survival Union, and an active participant in the community's day-to-day struggle for survival with human dignity, had given her life in the struggle for decent housing in the Uptown community.

fact that the city building department has repeatedly passed these porches as safe when they conduct their periodic inspections.

In December 1976 the two owners of 4506 N. Magnolia who were buying the building on contract, Humberto Gonzalez and Secundro Barreiro, walked away from the building leaving it without heat in the dead of winter. Unable to contact the owners, the tenants contacted the mortgage holder, Richard Kring, to see if he would deal with this desperate situation. Kring's position was that according to the contract he had drawn up, he was not allowed to have anything to do with the building. At this point, the tenants had no other choice but to pool their rent money and pay for the heating bills directly. Since that time, because of the fact that there was effectively no owner to assume any of the responsibilities for running the building, the tenants have, each month, pooled their rent money and paid for the utilities and applied what money was left towards making some basic minor repairs.

Shirley Brewster moved into the building in February, 1977. Shirley, who had lived in Uptown for about 15 years, had years of experience in dealing with irresponsible landlords. It was her belief that the building at 4506 could not be allowed to be destroyed. The situation with tenants' control offered as much a chance as any to show the people of Uptown that they could take matters into their own hands and prevent profit-hungry landlords from destroying any more of the community's much needed housing. At the time of her death, Shirley, along with other tenants in the building, had worked hard. They succeeded in filling the building and had made some surface improvements in the building. These improvements were easily recognizable to anyone in the community.

The reality of the housing situation in Uptown is that no major repairs or investments of resources have been put into any building in Uptown in the last 10 years. This becomes even more serious when one looks closely at these 10 years of landlord neglect and profit-oriented building management. No one has been willing to invest in improving the low-income housing for the people who now have to live in it. It has been left up to the tenants themselves to try to improve their own condition with the only resource being their desire to live as decent human beings. This is in the face of a conscious plan to destroy Uptown. Meanwhile, $6.1 million dollars in housing rehabilitation money given to the city of Chicago by the federal government remains sitting in the bank unused.

Shirley Brewster took a courageous stand. She was an example of people who refuse to be pushed around any longer. She gave her life in the struggle to save Uptown.□

Slumlord Bickering Plays To Masterplan

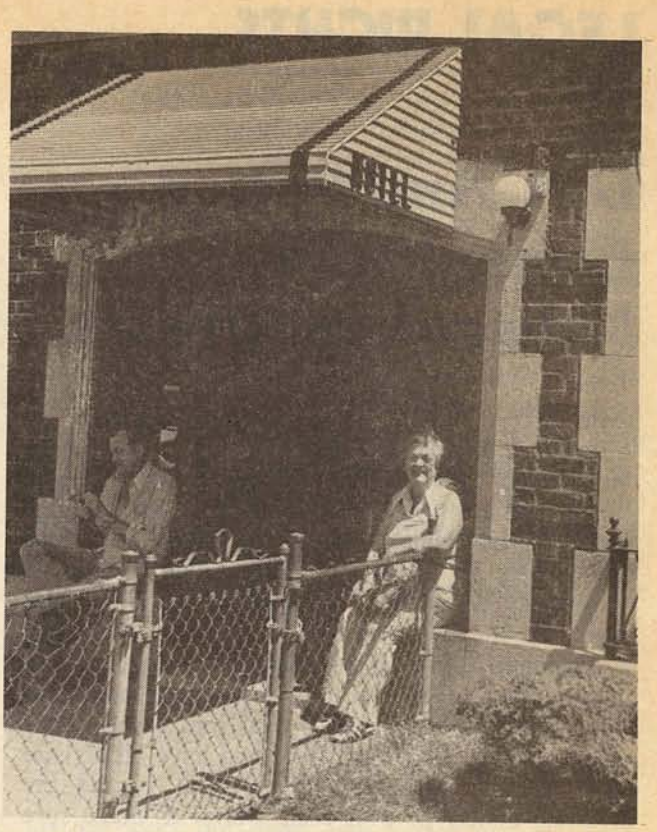
(Chicago, Ill.) Events of the last month have brought to the surface a fight among several prominent Uptown slumlords. The persons involved are Charles Roberts and two of his regular associates, John Schmiegal and Robert Baldi.

Schmiegal is best known for his operations in the area, notably the Carleton Terrace, the Ellis Hotel and the Parker Arms. He has been owner and operator of these properties and others for many years. According to several present and former tenants, the hotel operations make thousands of dollars each year with the various schemes that are run on the tenants, including high rents for the many disabled alcoholics who are forced to live in the buildings, a type of loan sharking operation where the tenants will be loaned money on a promise to pay back directly through their next welfare check, sloppy handling of check cashing services for tenants and routine illegal evictions.

While Robert Baldi is less known in the community, his name has appeared time and time again as one of the many owners of Uptown property held by Charles Roberts. His regular profession or occupation is not known, but during a recent illegal eviction which he directed at the Ellis, Baldi was seen flashing a badge around to assert his authority. The badge turned out to be a"legislative assistant" badge, and Baldi claimed that he is presently a legislative assistant for State Representative Lucas. Although it was reported by several tenants that he had claimed he was a deputy, Baldi denied ever using the badge for those purposes.

Charles Roberts is, of course, the same Charles Roberts reported on in previous KEEP STRONG stories, specifically the report on the arson at 4448 N. Magnolia and a description of the "Bleeding" operations at 4513 N. Magnolia and other properties. (See KEEP STRONG, July, 1977.)

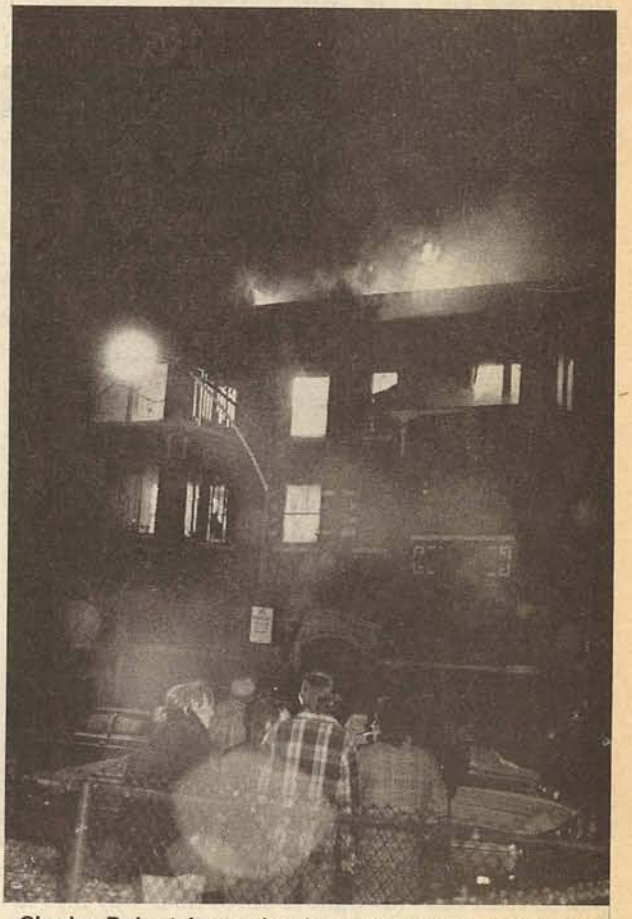
According to reports by community observers,



Charles Roberts, John Schmiegal and Robert Baldi are involved in a feud at the Carlton Terrace (left), Ellis (right) and Parker Arms (not shown) Hotels, leaving the tenants in the middle.

Schmiegal had to sell out his interest in the Carlton Terrace in recent weeks. Baldi became the new owner. Unknown to him, Schmiegal ordered all the tenants out of the Carlton and into the Ellis Hotel, removing all appliances and fixtures of any value. When Baldi discovered the "short" deal, he "pressured" Schmiegal into selling the Ellis to him. The final result was that several of Schmiegal's tenants including his manager were thrown out on the street with the new takeover. Baldi has also hinted that he may "move on the Parker Arms very soon."

The situation has left Roberts (the title holder of all the buildings) as an observer to the Schmiegal-Baldi feud. Rumors have circulated that the Carlton is being set up for an arson. Other speculation is that the hotel will be turned into a college dormitory for Truman College. Investigators for the Uptown Tenants Survival Union intend to watch the situation very closely, especially since a fire in either hotel would endanger many lives, and people from the community are strongly determined to prevent any such tragedy. In any case, the result has been further erosion of housing stability in the neighborhood with people facing an enemy regardless of who wins the property. Whatever the cause, many residents believe that recent events are planned to play right into the city's development plans for the area, forcing more residents out of the community and depriving those who remain of even more housing. □



Charles Roberts' name has been tied to many buildings that ended up like 4448 N. Magnolia (above).

LEGAL RIGHTS

D.A. And Police Conspire In Milwaukee Arrests

(Milwaukee, Wis.) It is common practice in Milwaukee for someone who has been arrested to be interviewed by a district attorney before seeing a judge. The arresting officer is present. At this time the D.A. determines whether the charge is serious enough to go before a judge. The system is supposedly designed as a means to cut down and speed up the overcrowded court cases. However, according to legal workers, what comes out clearly in many cases is that if you have a lawyer and have some money you can usually beat your case without seeing a judge. If you are poor and have no defense what usually happens is that the D.A. and the arresting officer go over their stories to make sure they come up with a charge that will stick.

On Sunday night, July 10, Donald Meyers was sitting on his mother's porch when two police officers pulled up to investigate a call they got about a fight. When he got to the car the officers asked him what was going on, and he told them that nothing was going on and started to walk back to the porch. The police yelled at him to stop and asked Donald what his name was. When Donald told them that he didn't have to answer any questions and again started to walk back towards the porch, Officer Doyle got out of his car and grabbed Donald, yelling, "When I ask you questions you better answer!" He then placed Donald under arrest for "disorderly conduct — fighting."

After arresting Donald, Doyle demanded to be let into Donald's mother's apartment, pushing his way up to the second floor apartment. When he refused entry he shouted at the people who had gathered at the foot of the stairs to get off the porch, and took Donald to jail. Donald was released on $50 bail and ordered to appear before the D.A. the next morning.

At the D.A.'s office, Officer Doyle wasn't present. His partner explained his story to the D.A., Ms. Ruffalo. She lectured Donald on the rights of a policeman to conduct an investigation, and informed Donald that not answering the officer's questions was obstructing an officer's investigation, which prompted Donald to ask about his rights. "The police don't have the right to force their way into my house and order people off their own porches," he responded.

Donald's charge was changed before he was given a court date. The original charge of disorderly conduct—fighting, for which there was no evidence, was changed to obstruction charges. Legal workers point out that the D.A. likes to have a lot of convictions on his record, so that "if they can't get you on one charge, they'll try to get you on another."□

In spite of harassment by police or anyone else, THE BLACK PANTHER Paper will continue to be sold on the street.

In a related incident: On Sunday, July 10, 1977, two Intercommunal Survival Committee members were selling THE BLACK PANTHER at Summerfest, this city's annual summer festival. They had been selling papers inside the grounds for nearly three hours when they were told that they couldn't sell inside and were escorted out the gate and told they could sell out there. After selling outside the gate for several hours, they were approached by two plainclothes policemen, Officers Lewis and Hodgkin, who bought papers and then placed both of them under arrest. When they tried to explain that they were told that they could sell outside the gate, the police told them to "shut-up," and to show them where it says you don't need a permit.

As they were taken to the security office, they were surrounded by several other plainclothes policemen. Once they got to the office the police who were present passed the THE BLACK PANTHER around, started calling them names and used abusive language. Not before or after they were searched, were they allowed to make a phone call or informed of their rights. They were given a slip and told to show up at the D.A.'s office Tuesday morning. They were then released and told that if they were ever caught on County property again they would throw the book at them.

On Tuesday, July 12, the two ISC members appeared before D.A. Ruffalo. She listened only to the officers' story and, in fact, held a special conference with the police before they appeared. She then informed them that they had obstructed the officers' investigation and were to appear before a judge on that charge.□

POLICE WATCH

Recent Beatings Show Chicago Police "Out Of Control"

(Chicago, Ill.) As temperatures in Chicago ran into the high 90's for several consecutive days in mid-July, most people suffered through the weather uncomfortably. However, Chicago police officers seemed to break under the severe heat as numerous cases of police brutality were reported. In two of the more serious cases, women were attacked and beaten by the police on the northside of the city in the last two weeks of the month.

On July 15, Joan Kaufman of Lincoln Avenue had locked herself out of her house at night and went looking for police to help her. She flagged down a cruising patrol car and asked for aid. What followed was a nightmare for Joan.

The female patrol officer responded to the distress call by demanding I.D. from Ms. Kaufman. When she told them she just wanted help to get into her house, she was told to "shut up and produce some identification." An argument started, and before long, the police officer had tripped Joan to the ground, put a knee in her back and was slapping handcuffs so tight that the bruises would remain for several days. Joan recalled being taken briefly to a district station, then transported in the "meat wagon" to Women's Detention at 11th and State.

She continued to protest her arrest and "all the insanity" that was taking place. Joan claimed she was dragged around the station showing evidence of numerous cuts and scratches from the incident. She also stated that while being fingerprinted, she accidentally smeared ink on the page. A female police officer then smacked her across the face with a small stick or blackjack, opening a large cut above her eye. Covered with blood, she was stripped and thrown into a cell for "what seemed like hours."

The following day, Joan was transported to Chicago Reed Hospital for "observation." She was released in her own custody within 24 hours. She still faces charges of disorderly conduct and possibly attempted assault. Joan's lawyer and a community investigator intend to follow up the matter in an effort to find enough evidence to expose the officers involved.

Two days later, on July 17, another incident occurred where police overreaction resulted in unnecessary injuries and arrests of two people from the Uptown community. A patrol car stopped at the scene of a man and woman arguing at the corner of Racine and Montrose Streets. Although informed by the couple, who were man and wife, that police interference was not wanted and not necessary, the patrol officers started shouting at everyone on the scene.

When they were told to "mind their own business," both of the officers seemed to go "wild," calling in reinforcements and shoving around the couple. When the woman tried to protect herself and her six week old baby, one patrol officer began hitting her with his nightstick. The baby was handed to her grandmother as her mother was arrested and roughly pushed into the back seat of the patrol car. The husband was knocked to the ground and hit

Chicago police officers seem to break under the severe summer heat as numerous cases of police brutality continue to be reported.

several times on the street. Both were charged with disorderly conduct and are awaiting their August court date.

Longtime community residents have reported that police overreaction has been bad this summer and is expected to get worse with harassment and beatings occurring more frequently. No officers have been suspended in any of the recent cases, and police officials seem to be unconcerned with the mounting evidence that many of their officers are "uncontrollable."□

"Blue Ribbon" Review Board To Monitor Police Spying Denounced

(Chicago, Ill.) Last month Mayor Michael Bilandic appointed four prominent Chicago business leaders and one lawyer to serve on a "blue ribbon" review board to monitor police spying. The Alliance To End Repression and other civic organizations suing the city and the police department for illegal police surveillance denounced the newly formed committee at a press conference in July, charging that the review board is an attempt to stop further criticism of the police department rather than bring a halt to illegal police spying.

The five named by Bilandic to the new committee were chosen from among 30 or 40 names submitted to the mayor by the Chicago Crime Commission. Officially designated as the Police Department Policy Review Committee, they are: William Lee, president of the Chicago Federation of Labor; Robert Drevs, board chairman of People's Gas; Donald Erickson, Arthur Anderson & Co.; Lucius Gregg, vice president of the First National Bank and Kenneth Prince, past president of the Chicago Bar Association. All but Gregg serve as members of the Board of Directors of the Dearborn Park Corporation which is planning to build a walled city in the South Loop for middle and upper-income families. Gregg, while not a member of the board, represents First National Bank president Robert Abboud who is also a director on the board of the Dearborn Park Corporation and recently has been named the most powerful man in Illinois. Drevs, Lee and Erickson also sit on the city's Overall Economic Development Planning Committee (OEDP) which recently is the target of a federal lawsuit. The suit, filed in June by the Coalition to Stop the Chicago 21 Plan and 29 organizations and individuals, charges the city of Chicago with violating federal guidelines in the way it put together a committee responsible for administering federal funds for jobs and economic development.

Chicago Police Superintendent James Rochford (above) has publicly stated that the purpose of the committee is to "put a halt to further questioning of the police department's legal and moral right to collect information it deems necessary."

Chicago Police Superintendent James Rochford has publicly stated that the purpose of the committee is to "put a halt to further questioning of the police department's legal and moral right to collect information it deems necessary." In a joint statement last month, the Alliance, ACLU, Better Government Association and Business and Professional People for the Public Interest (BPI) called the committee "outrageous." They point out that the city is currently petitioning the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold the police department's right to spy on attorneys representing plaintiffs in the red squad suit. Any civilian oversight committee, they say, would, therefore, be meaningless.

The new committee would have no power of enforcement, but merely make annual reports to the police superintendent and the mayor on police intelligence work. After the mayor responds to the reports, they will be issued to the public. Members serve for two years without pay, but will be provided by the city with a paid staff. Future members will be appointed for two year terms on a staggered basis.□

CONSUMER WATCH

Citizens Group: "No Taxation Without Representation"

(San Francisco, Calif.) "The question is, 'Does an unelected body have the right to raise taxes?' This was the basis for the American Revolution, no taxation without representation." So spoke Morgan King, attorney for the Committee Against the Toll Tax (CATT). CATT has taken the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) to court over the raising of tolls on three San Francisco Bay bridges. The 25 cents increase to 75 cents went into effect on July 1.

The MTC requested the toll increase to help offset a $104 million deficit projected by 1985 for the problem-plagued Bay Area Rapid Transit System (BART). BART, built as a pet project of San Francisco's downtown business interests, has been continually hampered by technical and financial problems since it opened in 1975. Mr. King, in explaining the basis for the suit, said, "State and local governments found it hard to work out problems on a regional basis. In recent years there has been an increase of regional bodies set up that are getting more and more power. The problem lies in that these regional bodies are not responsible to state governments. In this case you have an unelected body in essence taxing the people."

The CATT attempted to win a temporary restraining order to prevent increases from taking effect July 1, but the motion was not accepted in court. As the August 9 hearing date approaches, spokespersons for the group explain that they expect the matter to reach the U.S. Supreme Court before it is finally resolved. A related law, Senate Bill 234, is presently before the Transportation Committee of the California State Assembly, after passing the California State Senate earlier this year. The bill would strip MTC of the power to raise tolls or prices.

One irate commuter who supports the suit stated, "A 50% raise of anything is bad enough, but when a

The Committee Against the Toll Tax has taken the Metropolitan Transportation Commission to court charging the Commission is not an elected body ahd does not have the right to levy taxes.

A 25 cents increase to 75 cents went into effect on July 1 for three San Francisco Bay bridges.

group of people whom I never even heard of, let alone voted for, raised the toll on a bridge that's long since been paid for, it's time to do something."□

ISC Opens Greenpoint People's Food Co-op

(Brooklyn, N.Y.) After several months of research, planning and work, the New York chapter of the Intercommunal Survival Committee initiated the Greenpoint People's Community Food Co-op on Friday, July 29. The idea of the co-op (a cooperative food buying club) is to provide high quality food at low prices, according to the co-op's organizers. "By working together, people can keep the price of food down."

In talking with people in the community, the ISC found that one of the greatest problems for all people, was the high price of food. One community resident said, "Now that they closed Bohack's down, the only place to shop is the A&P. Buying at the A&P you spend $50.00 and within a week the food is gone. The prices are outrageous."

The first step in organizing the food co-op was to set up an organizing committee of eight community residents. Many wholesalers, farmers and warehouses were called. The organizing committee also talked to people they knew explaining what the co-op was about and asking people their ideas. Most people thought it was an excellent idea, and made suggestions as to what foods and other products should be distributed.

The co-op committee then began to find out specifically where the best places were to get the products and got volunteers to work on the different aspects of the co-op. One group of people volunteered to do the shopping early every Friday morning. Another group of people volunteered to distribute, collect and take the order forms every week. Some other people volunteered to weigh the food and bag it for co-op members.

Food co-op coordinator Karen Sandler recently pointed out, "The response to the co-op has been very enthusiastic so far. Many people have joined and many more have come down to see what it's like. "The co-op is an example of how people in the community, working together can create institutions that will help us survive hard times and begin to change the situation we find ourselves in."□

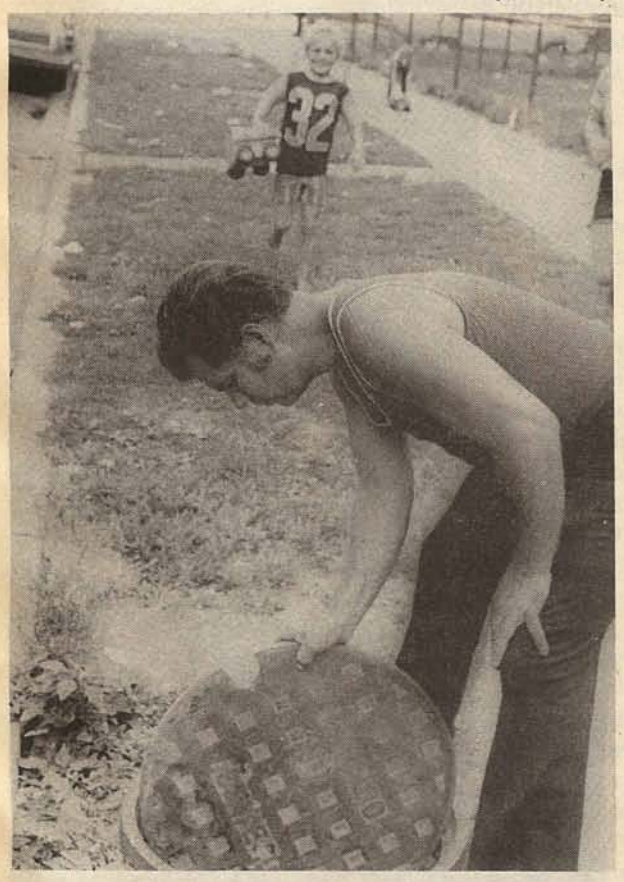
The New York Chapter of the ISC initiated the Greenpoint People's Community Food Co-op on July 29 to provide quality food at low prices.

HEALTH NEWS

St. Louis Encephalitis Reported In Cook County

(Springfield, Ill.) St. Louis Encephalitis is a serious disease that often leads to death. It is a virus that is transmitted to human beings by Culex mosquitoes. The director of the Illinois Department of Public Health has reported here recently that birds carrying the virus have been found in several areas of Illinois, including Cook County.

Culex mosquitoes usually feed on birds until about mid-summer, when they change their feeding habits and begin to bite humans. Residents in all areas in Illinois are urged to take individual action to discourage the breeding of Culex mosquitoes. "Since the Culex will lay eggs in small puddles of still water, householders should remove from their yards any containers which might collect even very small amounts of water, such as flower vases, rubber tires or tin cans."



In Chicago, unless the city takes action on its own, many warn that a serious epidemic could occur if the Culex mosquito moves there. It is a common occurrence for children, who have few recreational facilities in many of Chicago's decaying communities, to open fire hydrants in order to get relief from the sweltering summer heat. Since city maintenance crews fail to pick up garbage and clean the sewers regularly, large, filthy puddles of standing water accumulate on the streets where children continue to play. Although many residents have taken initiative to try to unblock the sewers themselves, without proper maintenance this is a futile operation. The stagnant puddles are ideal breeding grounds for the Culex mosquito.

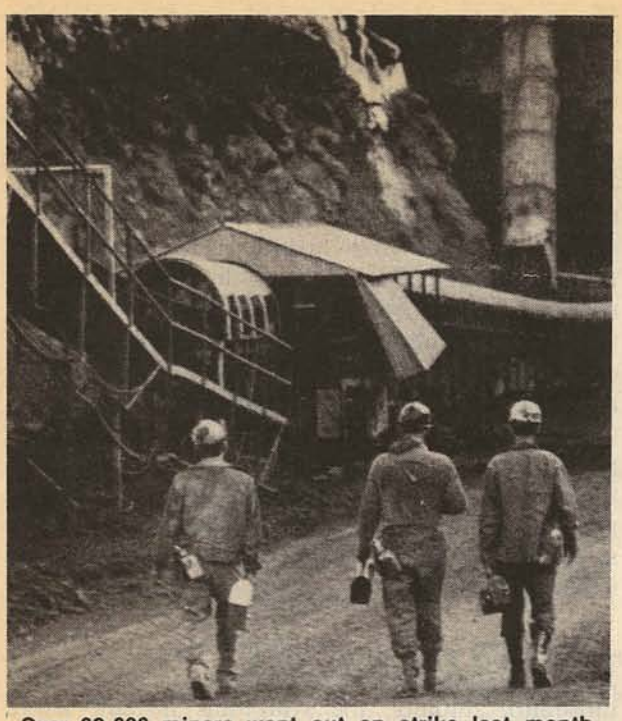
Symptoms of St. Louis Encephalitis usually begin 10 to 14 days following the bite of an infected mosquito. Initially, the symptoms include severe headache, high fever and muscle aches. These may be followed by stiffness in the back of the neck, problems with muscular coordination, and the patient may become disoriented or confused. Prompt medical attention is essential.□

RANK 'N FILE

Nearly 100,000 Strike In Coal & Steel Industries

(Pittsburgh, Pa.) Over 60,000 miners went out on strike in West Virginia, Kentucky and Ohio last month. The main issue in the strikes has been miner dissatisfaction with changes in medical benefits that affect both working and retired miners who have a pension. Claiming that wildcat strikes have used up their funds, the pension fund announced in early summer that it was in "bad shape," and that people would have to pay the first $240 for hospitalization and 40 percent of the rest. In Kentucky, striking miners who have been refused food stamps have been picketing the Office of Human Resources.

Meanwhile, about 2,000 steelworkers at iron mines in northern Minnesota and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan walked off their jobs August 2 in the first strike in the basic steel industry in 18 years. An additional 500 steel factory workers in Massachusetts joined the strike, while more iron miners in



Over 60,000 miners went out on strike last month, voicing their dissatisfaction with cuts in their medical coverage. Meanwhile, 20,000 steelworkers went on strike over 1,250 unresolved local issues.

Wisconsin and Minnesota and steelworkers in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Canada were threatening their own local strikes as KEEP STRONG goes to press.

Steel companies have threatened to bring suit for violation of the no-strike clause in the current contract. The miners say they are striking over about 1,250 unresolved local issues; therefore, the no-strike clause doesn't apply. During recent steelworkers' union elections, Ed Sadlowski challenged the current union administration for having signed the Experimental Negotiating Agreement in 1973 which committed the union not to strike on basic steel issues until at least 1980. The ENA is the basis for the companies' challenge to the current strike. □

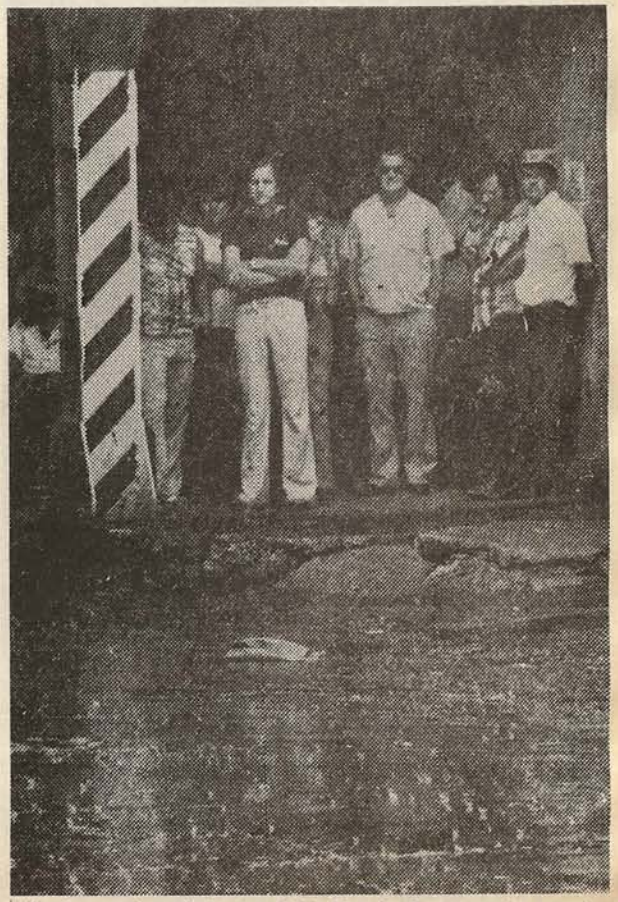
Brach Strike Shuts Down Factory Ten Days

(Chicago, Ill.) Workers at the E.J.Brach Candy Company are back at work now after closing down the factory at 4656 W. Kinzie for 10 days. The strike began with a walkout July 15, when the company refused to comply with their demands for a new contract. For the next 10 days they remained there several hundred picketing outside the building's two entrances, while others looked on in support from across the street.

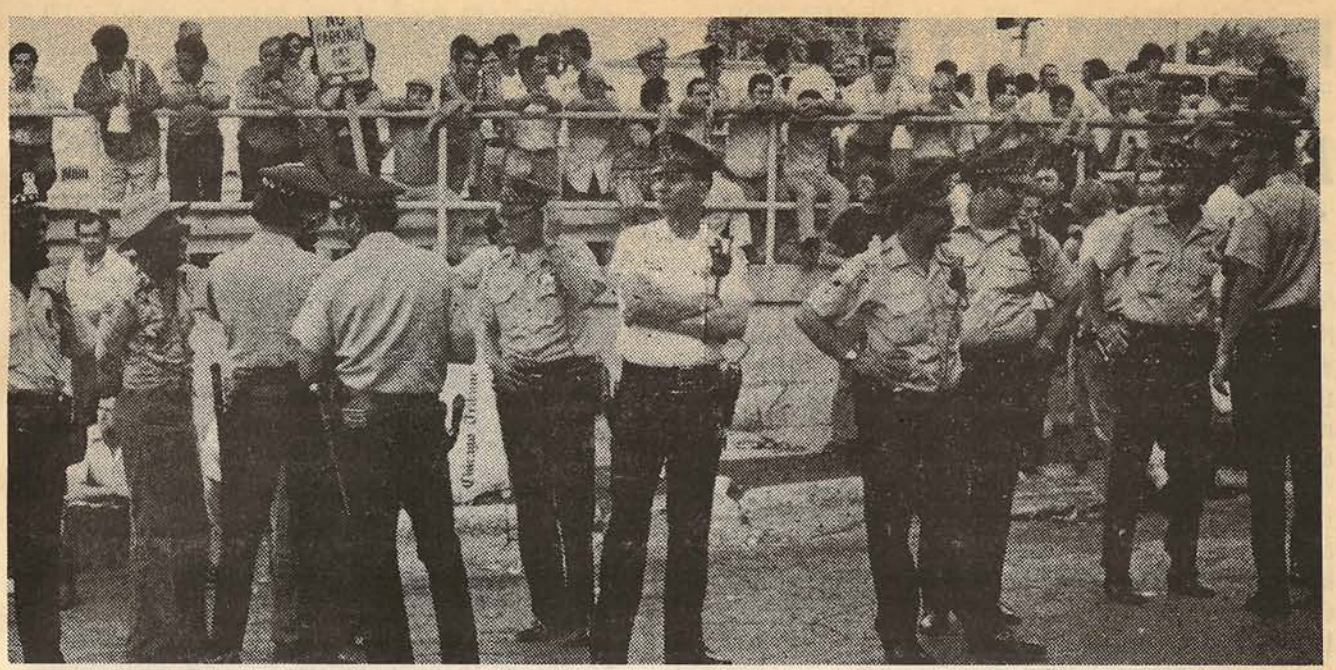
On Thursday, July 21, the seventh day of the strike, it was reported on TV that a contract had been voted on and approved by the workers. Everyone, they said, was going back to work starting with the 11 o'clock shift that day. A statement had been issued by Teamster Union Local 738.

That night reporters from KEEP STRONG went to the factory where they found 2,000 people outside the building. Police cars and paddy wagons lined the streets and police were standing by waiting with their riot helmets on. What the strikers had to say was very different from the news reports.

The workers said they had not approved any contract. The so-called vote taken on the contract, they said, was nothing more than a scheme thought up by the union and the company to make them give up their strike. One woman who has worked at Brach's for several years said that many people didn't receive their ballots until after it was too late to vote and many more didn't receive any ballots at all. She said that the company counted the ballots and that the results were announced at 8:00 a.m. when, in reality, they were still counting ballots at 3:30 in the afternoon.



Workers closed down E.J. Brach Company's candy factory in Chicago for 10 days last month.



Strikers added on the demand to end police brutality after the police provoked a fight on the first day of the strike.

The workers said they were not going back to work that night. "We've been here for seven days, 24 hours a day, and we'll keep staying here until our demands are met for the new contract." These were the words of a man who has worked at Brach's for many years. Another veteran worker said, "Local 738 does not represent us. There is no difference between the company and the union. The union just raised our dues, but they don't even come and talk to us."

The picketers were chanting "75-50-50" referring to their demand of a raise of 75 cents the first year and 50 cents each of the following two years. The contract that the company and the union claim was approved gives a lower raise of 50-30-30.

Other demands included better medical coverage, a guaranteed number of work hours each week and an end to unsafe working conditions. The demand to end police brutality was added, explained one worker, "after last Friday when the police came and started a big fight. They were jumping on a lot of innocent people." He was referring to the first day of the strike when at least 12 people were injured and five were arrested.

A woman worker said, "They say this strike is not legal. The 2,700 people who work here say it is legal. We want to pay our rent. We want to buy our food. That's legal." Another added, "We have all kinds of people working together, Greek, Italian, Black, Mexican, Puerto Rican, everyone. The union has tried to divide us but we are sticking together. That's the only way we're going to be able to win. A man said, "Brach's has been closed down for a week. The company can't go much longer without any workers. They will have to give in and accept our contract. Then we'll go back to work.

In the days that followed, the Teamsters continued to ignore the striking workers, while the company put on a lot of pressure to get the strikers back to work. On Sunday night, July 24, the striking workers held a meeting in the parking lot. There it was decided that they would go to the Labor Relations Board to seek help. That night they got 900 signatures on petitions.

The next morning, there were more people outside picketing than ever. While a delegation was talking to the Labor Relations Board, company and union officials were outside with bullhorns telling people to go back to work or they would be fired. About 150 people did go in.

According to striking workers, the labor board was no help at all. "They said the union has a legal contract with the company. They said we would have to hire a lawyer and take the union to court."

This bad news was brought back to the workers and served to reinforce previous attempts to discourage them and break their spirit. "After that everyone began to give up. Some got discouraged and went to work, others got mad and went home. More people came to work everyday and now everyone's back at work again."

As one observer pointed out, "This was a very courageous thing for the workers to do. In the face of massive unemployment, the company could have easily replaced them. They knew the union would not back them up, but they were not intimidated. They did what they knew was right and have learned some valuable lessons about the struggle for democracy in the union."□

FIGHTING CITY HALL

Lionel Wilson: First 30 Days In Office

(Oakland, Calif.) A gathering of 2,500 community residents at the July 1 inauguration of Lionel Wilson as Oakland California's first Black Mayor, marked the end of one which promises, in the words of the newly elected Mayor, "to uplift the quality of life for all Oakland residents."

On May 17, 1977 Lionel Wilson was elected Mayor of Oakland on the strength of 42,640 votes. The heart of the election victory was the sprawling East Oakland Black community and the Black Panther Party which fielded over 300 workers on election day to bring the voters to the polls.

After having suffered the twin indignities of unemployment and no community services, in a city of abundant corporate wealth, ruled for the past 40 years by the Oakland Tribune-Piedmont based Republican establishment, Black, Latino and poor and working White people embraced Lionel Wilson as a man who could begin to direct the city in their interests.

The promise of a better quality of life moved a step closer a few days after the inauguration as Mayor

Lionel Wilson was elected Mayor of Oakland on the strength of 42,640 votes on May 17, 1977.

Wilson announced a plan to create 400 new permanent jobs for unemployed Oakland residents, using $500,000 in federal Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) money. "In the long term, only a healthy private sector economy can produce the kinds of jobs that ultimately generate a sustained source of income for our citizens," Mayor Wilson said, as he proposed that private employers of the city use the funds to provide on-the-job training, only to Oakland residents and then, after

Lionel Wilson's inauguration: After having suffered the twin indignities of unemployment and no community services, in a city of abundant corporate wealth, ruled for the past 40 years by the Oakland Tribune-Piedmont based Republican establishment, Black, Latino and poor and working White people embraced Lionel Wilson as a man who could begin to direct the city in their interests.

CETA funds are used up, to keep the employees on their payrolls on a permanent basis.

In his remarks, Wilson outlined the strict provisions of the new program. "No employer will be permitted to become involved in the program unless we have a commitment that there will be training and furthermore, that there be a commitment for permanent employment."

Again, at his first City Council meeting, on Tuesday July 19, Wilson actively took the side of Black West Oakland residents who came to the meeting to register a complaint about the city's refusal to collect garbage off the streets of their community. After listening to assistant City Manager David Newfarmer's arrogant and insulting reply that "The city of Oakland is only responsible for garbage collection once a year," Mayor Wilson angrily declared, "The garbage would have been picked up if it was on Wood Drive (referring to a White upper middle class Oakland area) and ordered the city manager to furnish the City Council with a full report on the matter. □

Chicago CD Funds Leave Out Poor Communities

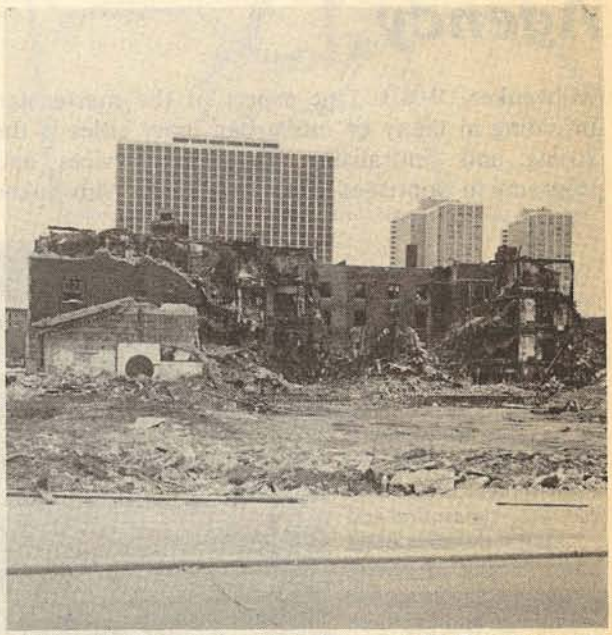
(Chicago, Ill.) A study last month by the Chicago Sun-Times reveals that the city of Chicago has misspent more than $86 million in community development funds since the program started in 1974. Most of the money has been invested by the city into middle and upper-income communities or in urban renewal projects which have hastened the destruction of low-income neighborhoods. Revised federal guidelines for the 1974 Housing and Community Development Act explicitly state that the programs must benefit low-income families.

According to official reports filed by the city with the Department of Housing and Urban Development, more community development money goes into prosperous neighborhoods for parks than into poor communities for housing. The Sun-Times investigation also shows that the city exaggerated its program to provide new or substantially rehabilitated housing.

Under the first two years of the program in Chicago, 37 park projects received CD funds. Only seven were in communities which could be identified as low-income. Fifteen were rated as being in high or very high-income areas. Examples of well-off communities receiving CD funds included Lincoln Park, Jefferson Park, Mt. Greenwood and Norwood Park.

Chicago's use of CD money follows closely its plan for employment and urban renewal. Under a plan developed by the elitist Economic Development Commission (EDC) and the Mayor's Council On Manpower (also the designated Overall Economic Development Planning Committee), the city's labor force and neighborhoods can be officially divided into three categories. First, there are the "employed," the stable middle class who live in neighborhoods where most people have jobs. Second, are the "employables," people who have some job training, education and work experience, but just can't find a job. They live in neighborhoods where business and industry has stayed. Finally, there are the "unemployables." This group includes about 35,000 Chicagoans who lack formal education, skills and job experience.

According to the EDC, this group, without marketable skills or work experience, should be excluded from any city-wide economic development plan. The report, "Unemployment—Labor Force Policy" (1976) spells out the strategy: "The Council felt that a strong focus on the least employable would simply not be effective...a focus on the most basically job ready was appropriate..." Job training and placement for the "unemployables" would be too "costly" — $60 million to train and provide jobs for 10,000 people.



Although the city receives Community Development money for use in low-income communities, very little is spent in those neighborhoods, making the above scene a common one in Chicago.

Consequently, the city puts little or no money into those Chicago neighborhoods where the "unemployables" live—Kenwood-Oakland, Near North, Lawndale, Uptown, Pilsen, West Town. Whatever money

does go to these areas is usually spent on urban renewal projects. Of nine of these sites targeted for economic and business development, only one (Western and Iowa) could be said to be in a poor area — West Town.

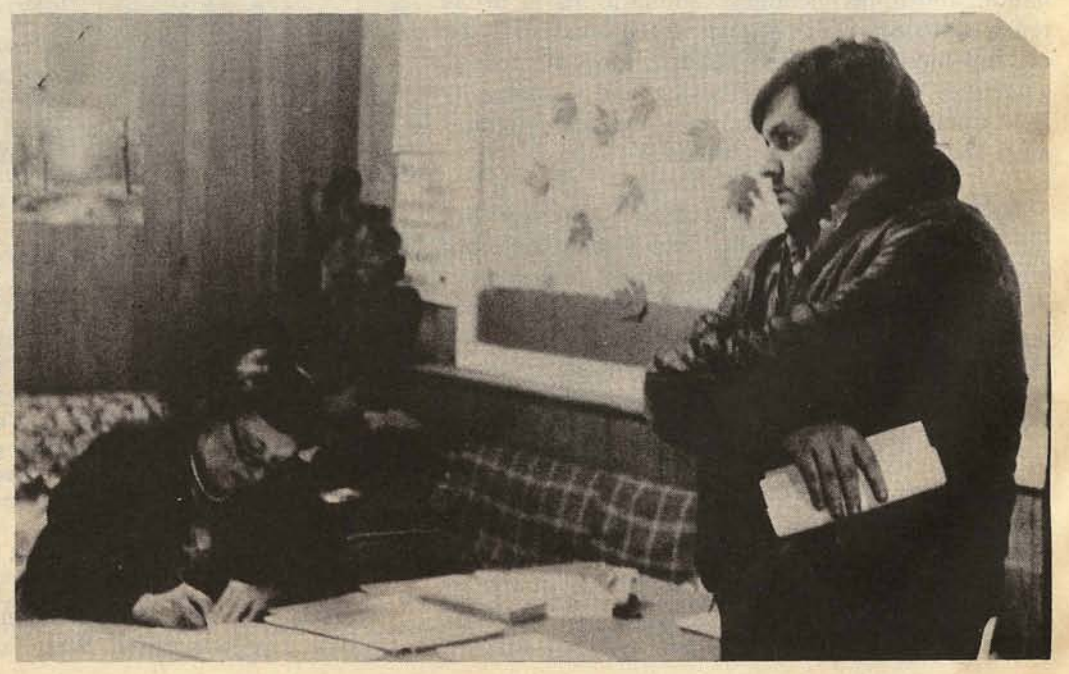
Last June the city told HUD that it provided 2,833 units of housing for the elderly when, in fact, only 778 units were actually provided during the first two years of the program. Of $10.4 million received by the city during the last two years for housing rehabilitation, more than $8 million was never spent. Much of the money was supposed to go specifically for the purpose of providing employment training in housing construction and rehabilitation. However, in 1976, the city transferred $2.6 million slated for housing activities to the model cities programs. In spite of these disclosures, the Chicago City Council recently approved a $64 million application to HUD for a third year of CD funds.□

Community Calls For Investigation Of Milwaukee Development Agency

(Milwaukee, Wis.) One aspect of the masterplan unfolding in many of our urban inner cities is the closing and centralizing of social services and programs in oppressed communities. In Milwaukee the Community Relations-Social Development Commission (CR-SDC) controls funding to nearly all the city's poverty programs. Initially set up 10 years ago in response to the 1967 rebellions which crippled the city for weeks, the CR-SDC was allegedly intended to insure that much needed funds and resources reached the oppressed communities throughout the city. In actuality, the CR-SDC has centralized services through a city-controlled agency which has not made these programs easily accessible to the people they should be designed to benefit.

The CR-SDC directs its poverty programs through the Inner City Development Project (ICDP) which has two main offices, one on the northside and the other on the southside. Each office is supposed to have a community residents council that meets regularly with the director. On the southside, progressive forces, tired of the runaround and ineffectiveness of its local ICDP office, launched an energetic campaign and captured a majority of the seats on the residents council with the intention of getting the ICDP to respond to the urgent needs and problems of the area. Since then, a major split has developed between the council and its director, Ted Seaver, a former special advisor to the mayor. The council has formally charged Seaver with refusing to take any direction from the council and has ignored recommendations and requests. At times, the resident council claims that Seaver has been rude, immature and condescending towards their recommendations and requests.

Charges against Seaver stem from numerous incidents such as one southside meeting where he was heard to say that he doesn't care at all about the Latin community while he made several obscene gestures. Mounting tensions came to a head at the regular meeting of the residents council on July 6,



On Milwaukee's southside, progressive forces, tired of the runaround and ineffectiveness of its local ICDP office, launched an energetic campaign and captured a majority of the seats on the residents council.

1977. At the previous month's meeting a specific motion was passed instructing Seaver to raise emergency funds for a community program providing assistance to injured and unemployed workers. This vital program was not being duplicated by other programs and yet when asked to report if he had done anything to carry out this motion Seaver replied that he had done "nothing." After a heated discussion Seaver was asked if he was or was not going to help the community as the council requested. His reply was simply, "no," and he packed up and left the meeting.

The resident council then met with Rosemary Holley, who is the program director in charge of all ICDP functions and Seaver's superior. She, in turn, treated the request with contempt and disregard, prompting the residents council to bring the matter to the Board of Governors. They instructed Ms. Holley to conduct an investigation and report at the next Board of Governors meeting.

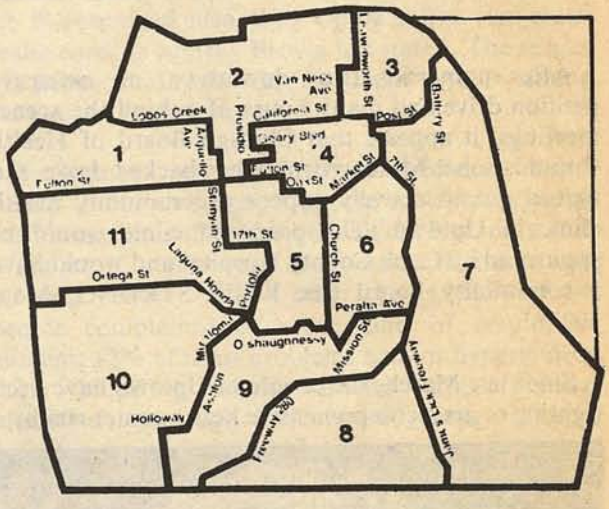
Community representatives feel their effort to remove Seaver from his position is just the "tip of the iceberg." The problem, they say, will not stop there. "A close examination and investigation must be made of the entire administration of the ICDP and its sponsoring agency — the Community Relations-Social Development Commission. Continuing efforts in exposing and gaining control over these agencies must be made to insure the survival of progressive grass roots organizations."□

S.F. Progressive Forces Defeat Challenge To District Elections

(San Francisco, Calif.) With literally thousands of volunteers in the field and on the phone, getting out the vote, and an impressive list of supporting individuals and organizations, a progressive coalition here soundly defeated two attempts to revoke the district elections procedures and oust the present liberal administration. In a special election, August 2, progressive forces defeated Proposition A and B with 20 percent and 48 percent of the vote.

In November, 1976, 115,000 San Franciscans voted to stop the citywide election for the city's Board of Supervisors. The at-large elections were replaced with a district system in which the city was divided into 11 areas with the supervisors to be elected by residents of each individual area. The Chamber of Commerce, long accustomed to buying the city supervisors through large campaign contributions, organized and financed a campaign to repeal the district election process. This measure appeared on the ballot as Proposition A.

Proposition B, the second of the two referendums, was organized and promoted by the San Francisco Police Officers' Association, conservative politician and Supervisor John Barbagelata and a host of reactionaries around the city, including former chief of police and ultra-right supervisor Alfred Nelder. The measure sought the removal of the mayor, district attorney and sheriff, and to prevent the district elections from ever taking place; the campaign for more police in the oppressed communities, greater tax breaks for downtown businesses and banks, and against district representation and equal opportunity employment. The "Yes on B" proponents continually fell back on racism and crime as the mainstays of their platform.



San Francisco district elections which divide the city into 11 areas with the city's supervisors being elected by residents of each area, replace at-large elections that gave edge to those with political clout.

Early in the campaign, both measures were identified as efforts to disenfranchise the city's Black, Asian and Latino populations which are rapidly growing. The racism of the "Yes on B" campaign was never clearer than when stated by Supervisor Nelder a few days before the August election: "People now live in fear in what was once the safest of neighborhoods. Projects that could provide jobs and new tax revenue for the city are endlessly delayed by militant groups, concerned not with the project itself, but with their own quest for power."

The final vote came in with Proposition A receiving 72,014 votes for and 97,242 votes against; and Proposition B receiving 62,185 votes for and 112,123 against.□

UPTOWN MOBILIZES FOR NEW HEALTH CLINIC

After numerous trips downtown, an extensive petition drive and many hours of behind the scenes meetings, it appears that Chicago Board of Health Commissioner Murray Brown has backed down and agreed not to actively oppose a community health clinic in Uptown. The proposed clinic would be sponsored by Cook County Hospital and would have a community board (see KEEP STRONG; May, 1977).

Since last March, the people of Uptown have been fighting to get a comprehensive health center run by a community board and equipped with a special black lung facility opened in Uptown. This clinic would be financed and staffed by Cook County Hospital and all policies would be determined by the community board. Up until now, the only obstacle to the clinic becoming a reality has been the Chicago Board of Health which claims that the clinic would duplicate the now existing Board of Health clinic which is also located in Uptown.

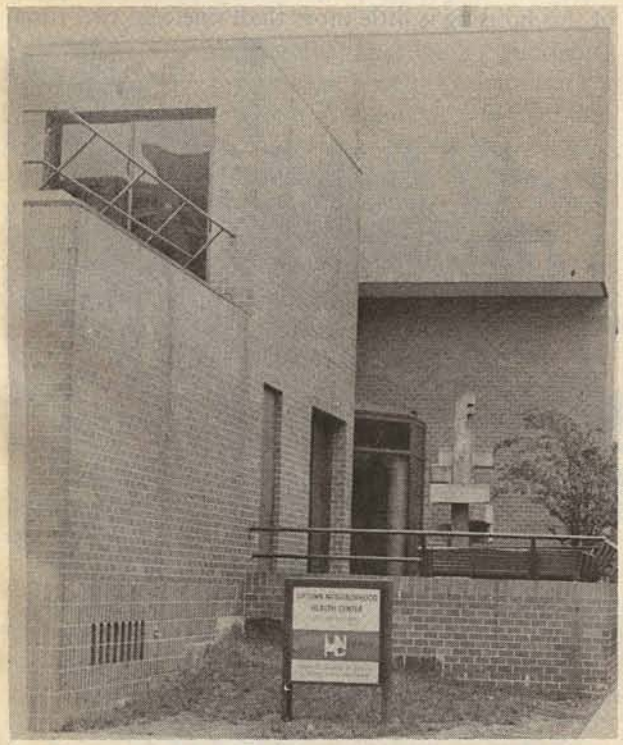
Recently, community residents who have been working to make this clinic a reality, have been

A press conference held this spring and called by the Chicago Area Black Lung Association, the Uptown Tenants Survival Union and the Intercommunal Survival Committee denounced Murray Brown for blocking the Uptown clinic.

Murray Brown first said black lung didn't exist; then he said he'd set up a black lung facility to prove this.

successful in locating a suitable site for the facility. Cook County Hospital staff have responded favorably to this site. Now, the only thing left to do is for the Cook County Health and Hospital Governing Commission to release the funds so that the clinic can be set up and opened to the community.

In order to demonstrate the desperate need for decent health care in Uptown, the Uptown People's Community Service Center is conducting a community survey to determine the specific health needs of the Uptown community. This survey will culminate in a community health fair to be held on August 13. The health fair will feature back-to-school physicals and immunizations, as well as testing for hypertension, glaucoma, vision, diabetes, kidney disease, anemia and sickle cell anemia. In addition, there will be information available on occupational health, first aid, pregnancy, early childhood diseases and drugs. Organizers of the event believe that through the survey and health fair they will be able to correct the ill-conceived idea that Uptown has too much health care, as Murray Brown has stated. The results will prove that health care in Uptown rates among the poorest in the city.



The Board of Health clinic cannot provide decent health care for all of Uptown's residents.

Preliminary results of the door-to-door health survey indicate that most people in Uptown suffer from some kind of serious ailment. In fact, only 23% of the people interviewed so far stated that they were in good health. Among other things, 47% of the people complained of some kind of respiratory ailment; 12% of heart problems and/or hypertension (high blood pressure); among other diseases identified were high incidents of kidney disease, arthritis, eye and ear problems, ulcers, diabetes and so on. On the question of "duplication of services," of the people interviewed in the community, 53% have never been to the Board of Health, 22% have used it but will not return due to dissatisfaction with the treatment that they never received. While 8% use it for special programs, everyone who responded to the questionnaire and who had been to the Board of Health clinic complained about the long time they had to wait for service.

Community organizers of the health fair have stated that it is obvious to everyone that Uptown needs a new health center; the question of duplication of services is a farce; there are no adequate services presently in existence in Uptown. The only real opposition on the city's part was based on the fact that the clinic was in opposition to the city's masterplan since it would be a stabilizing force in a community that the city is trying to destroy. As one community activist put it, "All the back room meetings and trips downtown are over now. A good turnout at the health fair will bring us one step closer to getting this demand met."□

Gap Widens Between The Fortunate 10% And Everybody Else In Stockton, California

"IT'S A VERY HOT SUMMER IN STOCKTON"

Nine o'clock on a Sunday morning; it's already 90 degrees. The labor buses filled with farmworkers are rolling out to farms across the San Joaquin valley. By midafternoon the temperature will reach 109 degrees. There is no shade in the vegetable fields. Old men are standing on the street corner, wiping the sweat from their faces. What was once their community running along the waterfront in Stockton has been reduced to two or three square blocks. The community has been replaced with several large bank buildings, a couple of motels, two small exotic shopping centers and a block or two of grass.

The city fathers call Stockton "some place special." A city of 120,000 people, Stockton sits in the middle of the San Joaquin County, one of the richest agricultural areas in the world. Here, more than in other places, it is clear that wealth is enjoyed by only a few, while the many, Filipinos, Latinos, Blacks and poor Whites must scrape to survive. Two recent events highlight the gap in the standard of living between the fortunate 10 percent and everybody else.

In July, the city submitted its third year application for $2 million in community development funds from the federal government. The application documents the existence of over 10,000 units of substandard and decaying housing in the city. Much of this housing is little more than one and two room

While affordable decent housing remains nonexistent tc most families in Stockton, planned communities like Venetian Gardens (above) are being promoted. Starting price for a home begins at $50,000.

Stockton's third year community development application documents the existence of over 10,000 units of substandard, decaying housing. Much of the housing is little more than one or two room huts, rented to families who are seasonally employed on the farms or in the cannery.

huts, rented to families who are seasonally employed on the farms or in the cannery. Some of it is 70-year-old flop house hotels for single men and women who come through here looking for work or help.

Less than 10 years ago, thousands of residents were displaced when the city moved to "rehabilitate" the downtown waterfront, to make room for the Bank of America, California First National Bank, Wells Fargo, Santa Barbara Savings. For three years in a row the city's application has described serious conditions of overcrowded housing in much of Stockton's oppressed communities. While affordable decent housing remains nonexistent to most families, the overall vacancy rate in much of the city has not climbed above three percent in the last 10 years. The city's three year program calls for the construction of only several hundred units of low-income housing in three or four different locations.

On the outskirts of the city, developers are in full swing into the promotion of planned communities like Quail Lake, Lincoln Village and Venetian Gardens. Financed on loans from banks, in which the wealthy valley farmers have invested their profits. these developments are designed to attract corporate executives and their families. The starting prices for homes is $50,000 to $60,000.

The scorching drought of 1977 has seriously reduced the amount of employment available to thousands of unskilled and underskilled workers who flock here in the spring and summer seeking temporary work. For many people, unable or unwilling to put up with the endless waiting, interrogations and abuse from the county welfare department, the only source of food is one community run food bank in a county which annually produces $480 million in fruits, nuts, vegetables, grain and dairy products. While official unemployment figures are as high as 18 percent in some communities, informed sources say that the real figures are twice that high, and among young people might go as high as 50 percent.

Conservative newspapers and vote conscious politicians continue to blame high unemployment on Mexican citizens crossing the border to join the labor pool, but many people feel the blame must rest with the state, county and city government, which have allowed the huge agribusiness establishment — H.J. Heinz, Tillie Lewis Foods, Del Monte, Diamond Walnut/Sunsweet, General Mills, Nestle, among others — to take billions of dollars out of the county while contributing next to nothing to improve the quality of life for Stockton's poor and working people. Indeed, in spite of the record growth of agricultural production here in the last 30 years, government statistics indicate that there is less work in agriculture than there was 30 years ago.

Noting the great distances between places of work and available housing, and the long distances which must be traveled to stay on the circuit, many citizens complain that the high price of gas (due in part to excessively high taxes) and the state's mandatory car insurance law work specifically to keep them in poverty. One 20-year old resident best explained conditions in Stockton when he said, "Yes, it's a very hot summer in Stockton, but this place has been hell for 20 years now."□

Less than 10 years ago, thousands of residents were displaced when the city fathers moved to "rehabilitate" the downtown waterfront, and make room for the Bank of America and other financial giants.

Second Annual KEEP STRONG Banquet Shows Growing National Unity

RESIST THE MASTERPLAN

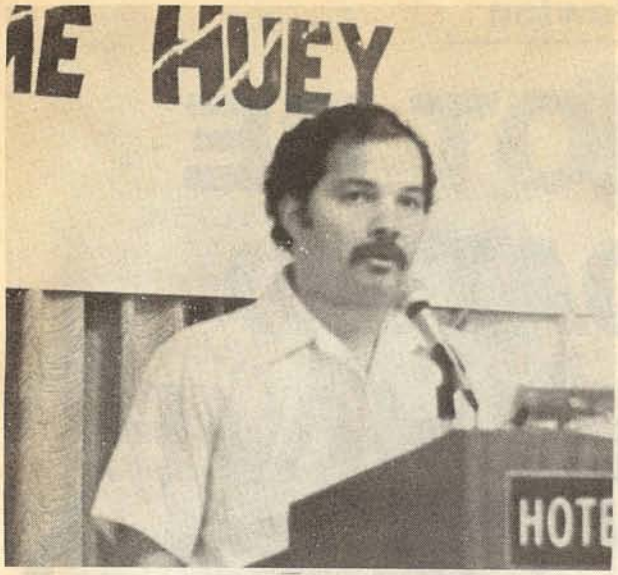
The Second Annual Keep Strong Banquet, held in Chicago on Saturday, July 23, highlighted the theme "Resist the Masterplan" and showed the far-reaching connections that the fast growing urban movement to save Black, Latino and poor White communities from destruction is developing. Featured speakers at this very successful event held at the downtown Midland Hotel honoring the second anniversery of the Intercommunal Survival Committee's popular magazine, included Jose Medina of CASA, Andres Torres of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, Marion Stamps of the Chicago Housing Tenants Organization and Slim Coleman of the Intercommunal Survival Committee

KEEP STRONG Editor Helen Shiller dedicated the Banquet to justice for Huey P. Newton and began the presentations with a taped message from Black Panther chairperson Elaine Brown. As the broadly representative crowd of nearly 300 listened attentively, Elaine announced that Huey P. Newton was again with the people on the streets of Oakland, free on "ransom" of $80,000 bail. The news of Huey's release brought a long standing ovation as Elaine continued, offering her encouragement to the work in Chicago and remarking on the role that Newton would certainly play in the months to come.

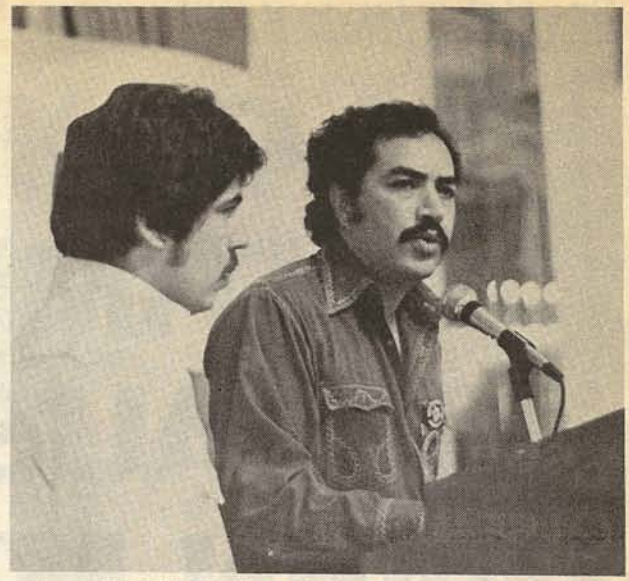
The theme of "Resist the Masterplan" was then clearly explained in a detailed and often moving 45 minute address by ISC coordinator Slim Coleman. Tracing the way in which the community had come to understand that there was indeed a masterplan to drive Black, Latino and poor Whites from the city, Coleman underlined that "We began not with theories, but with the facts of oppression, with what amounts to the murder of so many of our people living in poor housing, jobless, abandoned by the city and the corporations who had brought us here in the last decade for cheap labor." "We are now not only

ISC coordinator Slim Coleman traced the way in which the community had come to understand that there was indeed a masterplan to drive Black, Latino and poor Whites from the city.

Marion Stamps underscored the fact that the opinions of masses of poor and oppressed people are determined by the newspapers and networks controlled by the same forces who are intent on driving us out of the city and spreading us into powerless pockets of poverty around the country.



Andres Torres explained that besides the masterplan in the cities, Puerto Ricans face another reality: "We have been moved out from Puerto Rico by the millions to make room for the development and exploitation of multi-national corporations on our island."



Jose "Pepe" Medina (right), himself fighting deportation, explained the plight of the undocumented worker, driven from Mexico by the exploitation of the U.S. corporations in search of work and totally without legal rights in this country.

not needed by those in power," Coleman continued, "but we represent a threat to them as we are the majority in their nerve centers of finance, industry and commerce. Organizing ourselves into central city, strong, survival structures, linked together and to people struggling for justice throughout the world, we are on the way to developing the power base to demand and win, for instance, a massive struggle for full employment in this country."

The dynamic and ever popular Marion Stamps made "communication" the theme of her talk. Constantly provoking laughter with her jibes at the rich and those who act like they are powerful, but all the while deadly serious, Ms. Stamps underscored the fact that the opinions of masses of poor and oppressed people are determined by the newspapers and networks controlled by the same forces who are intent on driving us out of the city and spreading us into powerless pockets of poverty around the country. As Ms. Stamps went on to explain Carter's role in the masterplans, pointing out that **no** low-income housing was coming from this administration, she called on the banquet participants to "get involved," to become informed by seeking out the Coalition to Stop Plan 21 in Chicago and to link up their efforts to inform and educate others with publications like KEEP STRONG and THE BLACK PANTHER Newspaper.

Speaking next, Andres Torres, who is a member of the Central Committee of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, read directly from the "New York Plan" pointing out that the masterplans to ruthlessly evacuate Black, Latino and poor Whites from the cities were nationwide. He then greatly deepened the masterplan theme as he explained that the Puerto Rican people faced two realities. On the one hand, "We have been moved out from Puerto Rico by the millions through a 'masterplan' to make room for the development and exploitation of multi-national corporations on our island." Torres stated that it is certainly a primary objective of all Puerto Rican people, no matter where they are, to win the independence of their homeland. On the other hand, Puerto Ricans face the same vicious masterplans in the cities as do Black and other poor people, and their very survival demands a concrete day-to-day program of protection and defense.

Just as Torres had saluted the release of Huey P. Newton as a victory for the entire movement, the final speaker, Jose "Pepe" Medina, began with a tribute to the recently returned leader of the Black Panther Party. Perhaps the highlight of the evening, Medina, who is himself fighting deportation, explained the plight of the undocumented worker, a person driven from Mexico by the exploitation of the U.S. corporations in search of work and totally without legal rights in this country. Medina blasted "Mr. Human Rights' " so-called "amnesty" program as just another excuse to continue persecution of undocumented workers and falsely place the blame for this country's massive unemployment on them.

The joining of these movements from so many different communities, in some cases tied to struggling communities in other parts of the world, made the evening a momentous and historic event that will be remembered in the quest of oppressed people for unity, power and self-determination in the years to come. □

Special Interview With Huey P. Newton

"I CANNOT BE INTIMIDATED BECAUSE I HAVE GIVEN MY LIFE TO THE PEOPLE"

Reprinted from The Black Panther

Question: How does it feel to be back home after being away for close to three years?

HUEY: It feels good. Even though this home is a land of contradictions, it is still my home. There are many friends here. This is where the struggle to which I've devoted my life is; therefore, I feel that this is where I belong. I'm happy to be where I ought to be and where I'm ultimately happiest, among family and friends.

The reception that I received and the work of hundreds, in fact, thousands of people helped me make this long journey home. It was not just a journey from Cuba to the United States, but a journey across three years. I'm very grateful for these things, and they encourage me to believe that the consciousness of the people in this country has been raised and that some of the things that we started out talking about 10 or 11 years ago have now become realities and not just dreams in the minds of the people. The people are demanding more and more, and, therefore, my home is a different and better place in that respect.

I can only sum up by saying again that I'm glad to be here. I'm ready to fight my battle in the courtroom against the false charges that are leveled against me. I'm ready to show that I was forced to leave this country in 1974 because a large machinery was being set against me and my Party. I'm ready to win a victory, not just for myself but for the people. We have the right to know what kind of machinations the government is using against us and we have the right to get rid of them. Hopefully, through my case, I will win not only an individual victory for myself and the Party but a victory for the people.

I'm looking forward to these things then, and after we have won that victory, which I feel confident that we are in a position to do, I will devote my entire time to working for and with the people of this country. This is the reason that I have returned, and this is the reason that I'm glad I have returned. I'm glad to be home.

Q: What did you think about the welcome you received at the airport and the reception at the Oakland Community Learning Center following your release?

HUEY: As I have indicated, not only did that make me feel very good, but I recognize that the reception meant many people were aware that I am not guilty of the activities I have been charged with. So many people were not fooled as maybe would have been fooled 10 years ago by the publicity and rumors that have been put out against me and against our Party. It made me know that there is a lot of hope. I have a revolutionary hope and a revolutionary optimism about the end, that the

people will ultimately be victorious. The demonstration at the airport and the demonstration at our Learning Center were a concrete way of observing and knowing that the people are perhaps more conscious now than ever.

Of course, it was also good to see old friends and family members that I had not seen for three years. It made me very happy for us to be reunited and for us to be standing together once again in love and in friendship, close to each other, able to exchange ideas in the future. I saw so many children who are so different now than three years ago, who have grown and developed so beautifully. They represent so much more hope beyond the trial that I am about to engage in and beyond all the other activities that we're involved with because they are the hope for the future. I saw that they have blossomed so beautifully already and that made me feel very warm.

It was very good to see my comrades, brothers and sisters in the Black Panther Party, whom I have missed and whom I am looking forward to going forward with on a day-to-day basis in active work, in our Survival Programs and our programs for service to the people.

That reception and those demonstrations were demonstrations of love, not just for me but of our mutual love for each other and the ultimate victory of the people.

Q: Speaking of the welcome at the airport, at that time you cited an agenda of working toward full employment, decent housing, and improving health care needs. Since then, you were quoted as saying in an interview that full employment, not socialism, is the number one priority for the American people. Could you explain what you mean by that?

HUEY: That wasn't exactly what I had said. I said that while this is a capitalist society, I believe that full employment is possible under the circumstances in which we live. The big businesses will have to begin to — and can — accommodate the unemployed people of this country. It is an absolute prerequisite for any kind of serious social change that everyone have employment, and that is possible without changing structure, without changing from capitalism to socialism, that is. Even though I have just left a country where everyone is fully employed and where employment is not a problem — a socialist country — I recognize that in the United States, in this capitalist country, it is possible for full employment to be an issue.

I did not say that we would be working for full employment inside of capitalism instead of socialism. I said that this was an immediate goal that we were going to set about accomplishing until such time as the people demand a socialist change. I think that will ultimately come anyway.

We can observe that one of the easiest ways for full employment to be possible and for everyone to immediately have some means of supporting himself

or herself, is by the big businesses creating the ability for more people to be employed. They have the ability to do so. Also the large unions, who very often work hand-in hand with the large capitalist corporations, should begin to lower their demands for high wages and demand that more people be employed. They must begin to engage in the sharing of work so that every human being can at least have some kind of wage by which they live out their existence.

Of course, this program goes hand-in-hand with decent housing and decent medical care as well as all the other immediate social problems that face the poor in this country (which are outlined in our Ten Point Platform and Program) — problems of injustices in the courts, low-quality education and others. These are the ills which our Survival Programs, of which there are some 48, attempt to attack, not only directly by serving a number of people, but also indirectly, by showing people that it is very possible for every human being to receive the benefits of society and for no one to be denied. Our Survival Programs reach out and attempt to serve that dual purpose.

EMPHASIS AT THIS TIME

But our emphasis at this time is going to be not only on the existing programs that we have but to achieve full employment. We believe that here in Oakland, for example, we can begin to create a climate for that to be possible.

"Full employment is possible in a capitalist society, especially here in the United States, and we intend to force that issue until it becomes a reality."

At this time, as you may well know, we have been engaged in a program of attempting to get all of the jobs that will come out of the new City Center project to be offered and in fact given over to the unemployed people of Oakland. That number of jobs is quite large, and while it will not satisfy the swelling unemployment rolls, it will begin to cut a large hunk out of the unemployed numbers in this city. We believe that if we continue to move in this direction, where we can work toward obtaining jobs by various maneuvers and activities, we can demonstrate in one city, for example, that it is possible for every single employable person to be employed.

What I mean by unemployable is a person who is totally incapable of working at any job, and that really doesn't mean very many people. For example, our program for disabled people demonstrates that even people who are physically handicapped are capable of engaging in some kind of meaningful activity and being paid a reasonable wage for that activity.

It's almost impossible to talk about an unemployable person. For the many people who are unskilled and unable to get jobs at this moment, we will show that training programs can be quickly developed to enter them into the workforce. There really isn't any excuse — other than the excuse of not wanting to pay fairly for workers, or big unions who want to use racism and other tactics to keep a lot of people out of work.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

We intend to stress youth employment, of course, because this is the largest sector of unemployed people. Each person should be able to lift his or her spirits and begin to feel like a dignified person, not having to beg or end up groveling like some 3,500 people recently did in New York City—forced to the point of taking goods and materials that they have needed and desired all this time, materials that have been paraded before them like a carrot on a stick. We intend to create the conditions where a human being feels as though he or she earned the right to walk with dignity.

We think that this is just the first level of changing and bringing into the forefront all the population. Then there are other steps that will be taken to organize those people once they become workers.

In a round about way I've answered your question, but, in short, full employment is possible in a capitalist society, especially here in the United States, and we intend to force that issue until it becomes a reality.

Q: You also mentioned in your homecoming statement that you would not be intimidated by the contract put on your life by drug dealers and would continue to fight heroin abuse in the community. How will you go about doing that?

HUEY: I cannot be intimidated because I have given my life to the people.

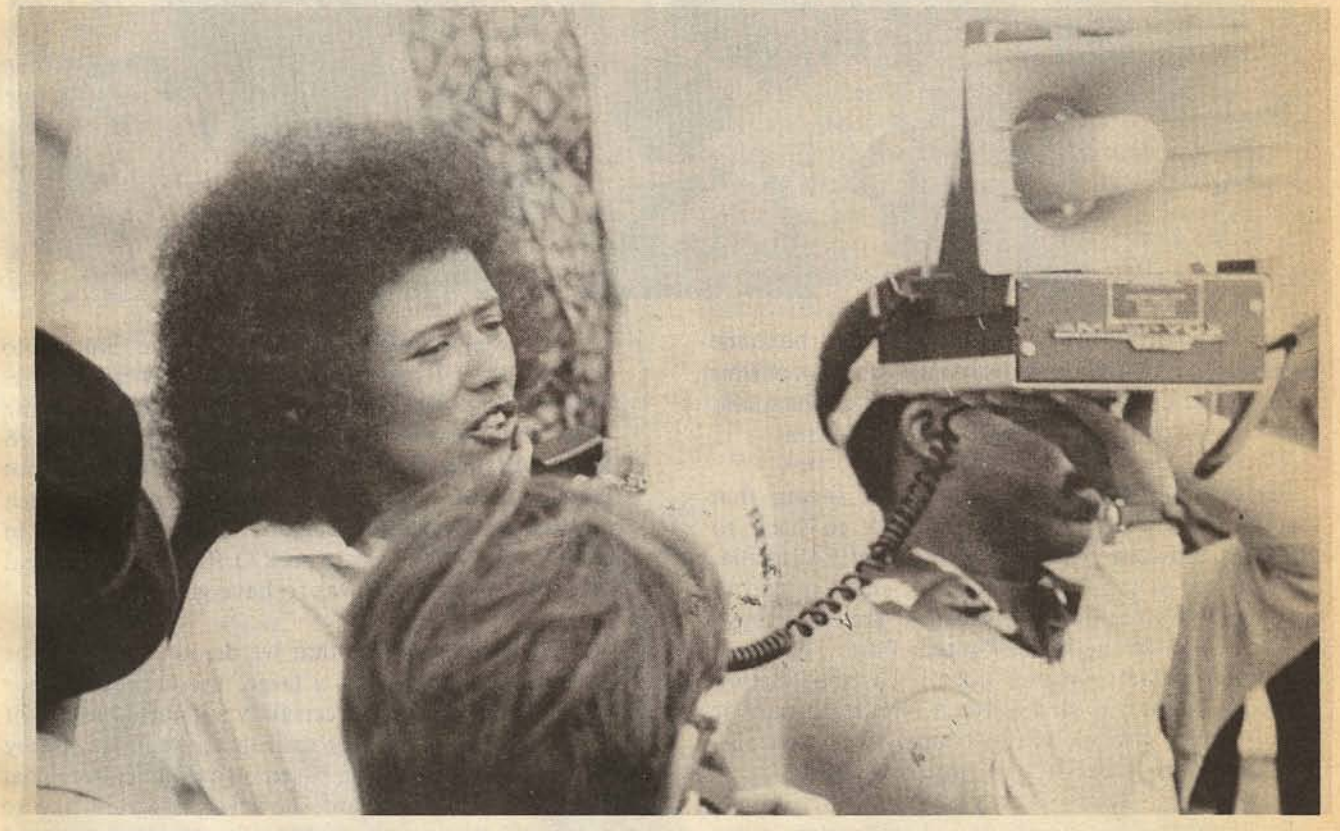
Certainly the trafficking of heroin, particularly, is one of the greatest dissipating factors in the Black community. That is to say, among the poor, not only Blacks but among Chicanos, Puerto Ricans and other poor people, the use of heroin and trafficking

of heroin has become such a great force in the community until people are totally mesmerized in this insane cycle. It is an evil that has to be driven out of our community. It is obvious that police forces in general have not seriously attempted to crush this growing evil, but have, in fact, encouraged it, by either a lackadaisical attitude or even, in some cases, participation in that trafficking.

I have called upon the new mayor of this city to join us in this regard because I think that as the elected political leader of the city, it is his responsibilty to begin to set the tone for positive change among Black, poor and working people in this city when we have our community rampant with people who have no regard for life or limb when it comes to the dollars that heroin offers.

begin to recognize their worth and begin to learn how to show to their community that they want to be more responsible and not irresponsible in the building of our communities, neighborhoods, our city, our state and our country. It is just intolerable that heroin traffic exists. It can be cleared up and cleaned out of this city, and we certainly intend to put out every energy we have to do that.

Essentially, I think that the way this will happen is that the tone will be set and various forces in the city will begin to see that tone is serious. We intend to join hands with Lionel Wilson in working out this problem and ultimately getting rid of it. I believe this is possible because, again, I believe good will triumph over evil — and I believe that the people themselves will run the dope dealers out of the community. The



We intend to use every means available, and certainly your first step will be to call upon the offices of the new mayor to begin to seriously set that tone in this city, to begin to expose the pockets of this kind of activity until eventually it has no place to go. The community will rid itself of heroin once it becomes encouraged by its leadership to not be afraid and to put forward an effort to not allow itself to be completely deteriorated and totally disrupted by an activity that has been put upon us by large businessmen and others who are not our friends, but in fact, represent our enemies.

These people who participate at a very low level, while they are also the victims of heroin trafficking and the whole business of heroin dealing, must also

people who don't live here don't care about our community and will have to remain outside and have to think of something else evil to do. But they certainly are not going to be tolerated coming into our community with large quantities of heroin to ruin the lives of our children, to cause some of our young men and women to engage in activities that only produce profits for the very rich.

Q: What other plans, personal or political, although the two are so closely connected, have you made while awaiting trial?

HUEY: Well I'm going to begin to settle myself into active work. I've got to somewhat recapitulate the last three years in terms of some of the things that

have occurred that I have not been able to be made aware of. I've got to look over some of the problems in our programs and how we can straighten them out, and how we can push forward other programs.

Personally, while you're correct in saying that there is little difference, I intend to go back to school. I had started at the University of California, Santa Cruz, in the Ph.D. program, and I intend to continue that program. I'm going to write my thesis on the history of the Black Panther Party. That will also serve a dual purpose; not only is that history needed because it is obviously an important part of the history of struggle in this country, but that also will serve as the thesis for my doctoral degree.

I will continue to work on other articles, other books and theoretical works that I made some outlines for while in Cuba. Of course, I will participate every day in coordinating the activities of the Black Panther Party.

I have two children and a wife, so I will settle in and grow now, developing our family life in a more reasonable way, not in exile, but at home.

Q: Why did you seek O.R. release, and what did you think of the judge's denial despite such overwhelming support?

HUEY: The reason why I sought the right to be released on my own recognizance is obvious. The whole question of bail is absurd. In my particular case it's even more absurd because I have returned to this country. I made all the necessary authorities aware that I was coming back. Now I have come back and there is no particular reason for me to leave. Anyone with any logic or sense could not imagine that I would come all this way after so much and suddenly take flight again. The only logical and correct thing to do was to seek O.R.; the only logical and right thing to do was to have given me O.R.

But, despite the fact that we demonstrated in the courtroom that there is a large, broad-based sector of the community who certainly supported my right to release on my own recognizance, the judge simply ordered a bail reduction based on a technicality. That technicality is important, however, I would like to point out, because the technicality was that some of the felony charges that were leveled against me were reduced to misdemeanors. This is an indication of how limited the real facts are in any of the cases against me. Before I've even gone to any preliminary hearings, or any motions have been made or I have stood trial, immediately some of the charges against me have been reduced.

More importantly, I think that everybody who goes to jail should be released on their own recognizance. A person who pledges dollars is not as trustworthy as a person who pledges his or her word. The bail system merely affects the poor and not the rich. The amount of money that we had to gather to put up for my bail was an amount that no average working individual could save in a lifetime, or in

many cases, even earn in an entire lifetime. Yet I was expected to pay this bail because of the charges against me — even though the Constitution says that excessive bails will not be required despite the charges against you.

I am being punished and everyone who has such a large bail is being punished, not because we're being charged with a crime but because we are poor. Further, I am being punished while presumed innocent of the charges against me. If I had gone to jail and been charged with jaywalking, it would be no different under the Constitution than if I had gone to jail on the charges leveled against me now; despite the fact they are false. The law allows that I be considered for my word and not for the type of crime with which I am charged.

It was a violation of the law, which I wish to expose, in addition to a violation of human rights to have to pay a penalty for merely being charged with a crime or with a violation of law.

I was very grateful, however, that I was able to get support from so many diversified people who not only supported me as an individual but supported the notion of the right of a person to walk out of jail on his or her own signature. For example, I had the support of Congressman Ron Dellums; former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark; a very close and old family friend who was my Sunday School teacher, Mrs. Odelia Brown; Alameda County Supervisor John George; and so many others. They gave their support to say that I had a right, as many have a right, to an O.R. — particularly, in my case to say that my commitment to the programs and the people that these programs and I serve is far greater than any dollars that could be presented; that they believe I am so committed to these programs that I would have no reason to lie to the very people that I serve, and ultimately cause the programs and the work that I have done to be discredited.

I sought the O.R. because I wanted people to be aware of all these facts although I did not believe that the court was going to be fair, or just, or would allow for the O.R.

Q: Before getting into other aspects of your return and the upcoming trial, I'd like to take a step back. Why did you leave the U.S. in August, 1974?

HUEY: I left because we, the Party, not only myself, had reached an important crossroads and that was whether we were willing to sacrifice the leadership of the Party, whether I was willing to sacrifice my life, to a plot that we couldn't explain in detail but that we knew existed. That plot was the conspiracy on the part of various agencies of the government to assassinate me by using a variety of criminal elements to do so. That plot was not only to carry out my assassination but to carry it out in a fashion so as to discredit me while at the same time killing me.

We were not going to accept that, and at that time

the only posture that we could reasonably take was to eliminate this problem by my leaving the country and not accepting a plan, a version of reactionary suicide. It was intolerable for me to remain any longer and at some point be assassinated. It is common knowledge that a contract was placed on my life for $10,000 by some alleged businessmen, who have been discovered to be major heroin dealers, because our Party, and I in the leadership of our Party, took the same position that we take now — that the heroin traffic had to be eliminated.

We went about a process of trying to do this in a rather haphazard and low-level way, so that that lots of people were not aware of our program to do this. Consequently, the government took an opportunity to use the heroin dealers to kill two birds with one stone, so to speak. They could get their plan accomplished and remain clean-handed in the act of getting rid of the leadership of the Black Panther Party.

It was best that I left and it is best now that I return.

Q: In your recent statement, you drew a comparison to the Sacco and Vanzetti case. What did you mean by that?

HUEY: Sacco and Vanzetti, as you may remember, were tried 50 years ago in what is called a classic case for murder involving a robbery. They were castigated by big business and government politicians, using the press, as "foreigners," "dissidents" and "draft dodgers." This was enough, at that time, to hang anybody. They were placed on trial for murder involving a rather ordinary kind of street crime so that they were discredited while also were ultimately murdered. This is the same kind of plan, in a more sophisticated arena — but very little more sophisticated, in essence — as was about to be carried out against me.

I was to be taken through court in a sensationalist trial. A group of paid informers, something like the informer William O'Neal involved in the assassination of our brother Fred Hampton, were to appear in court, conjure up lies and testify against me. Stories would be rampant, the press would go wild, and like Sacco and Vanzetti I would either be convicted of that or killed, on the streets. Then 50 years later, someone might say, "By the way, Huey Newton was not tried fairly and should have never received the death penalty."

I refused to accept that, and I was fortunate enough to have the ability to step back and retreat for a moment. That is what I did. They were simply tried, convicted and ultimately murdered because of their political beliefs; certainly not because of any violation of the law that they had committed. I didn't intend to be Sacco or Vanzetti, which is why I have returned. So I can fight.

But I have something to fight with now. We have more information, tidbits that have come out of the Church Committee and other information that we are gathering, and have gathered, to show that the conspiracy as we have stated does exist, and has existed, to not only destroy our Party, but, more specifically, to assassinate me.

I don't intend to take this lying down, and I'm back to fight the charges, to prove to the world that such a conspiracy does exist, as it did with Sacco and Vanzetti.

Q: What was life like for yourself, Gwen and the children while in Cuba? We've heard that you taught school briefly, but preferred to do construction work.

HUEY: Yes, I did. I felt that the construction work was more in keeping with what the average Cuban was doing on a day-to-day basis. Actually, I had originally asked to cut cane as so many Cubans, and so many people who come and volunteer their time to the Cubans do. The Cubans suggested that Americans are not physically able to withstand the hardships of cane cutting and discouraged me from taking that job. I was then offered a job of teaching at the university, but I still wanted a job where I could work with my hands and in a place where I would probably be more needed. I was finally given a job as a repairman at a cement truck factory. I did some other work before that, in a refresco company, which is a kind of Cuban soda pop factory, and then went on to work at the cement truck repair factory.

This is very difficult work. I worked very long hours every day, but I felt that I was participating in the Cuban Revolution in the way that I could be most needed.

When we moved from the countryside in Santa Clara back to Havana, I did teach some classes in

"The need for a Black Panther Party is merely to say there is a need for an organization to demonstrate the contradictions and to put forward ideas for solutions to the contradictions in a society such as our own...."

social studies, North American politics and Black history. I was very happy to be able to contribute in this way also.

I don't know that I would say I "preferred" the work in the cement factory. It was very hard work, but it was the kind of job that I gained some information and knowledge, not only how to repair a cement truck but also I could observe life at a very direct level in a socialist country. I was very informed as the result of this, probably more so than if I had taught the whole time. I became much closer to the working people of Cuba and learned much about the struggle of the people toward the triumph of the Revolution. I learned that socialism is the ultimate answer to human beings living a decent and human existence.

In that sense I preferred that kind of work. Personally, as I say, it was very, very hard work and I'm not sure that was the kind of work I subjectively would have chosen. But it was the kind of work I needed and I learned a lot, as I mentioned.

Q: You were in Cuba when that country mobilized in support of the People's Republic of Angola in late 1975. Could you see popular enthusiasm or dissatisfaction with this move by Latin people to support African people?

HUEY: There was overwhelming enthusiasm. As a matter of fact, it was ironic because I couldn't imagine people being so enthusiastic anywhere else about supporting the people of another country, not only by demonstrations and rallies in support of the people of Angola, but also by sending out their very finest fighters to lay down their lives in defense of the right of the Angolan people to be in control of their own land.

Never before have I experienced such an overwhelming feeling of solidarity of human beings than during that period. As far as the Cubans as a Latin people are concerned, you have to remember that, over two-thirds, of the population is what we consider Black. However, in Cuba these distinctions are not really made, so that the Cuban people are the Cuban people rather than the White Cuban people or the Black Cuban people.

As I said, the enthusiasm was overwhelming. It seemed as though the consciousness and understanding of each individual person was very high as to what was taking place and why it was happening. They gave it their full support. In this country, I don't think that we could imagine that. Say, for example, the U.S. claimed to be in support of another country. I can't imagine getting the kind of enthusiasm and volunteers to go and lay down their very lives in the interest of another people. That was a very rewarding experience and certainly the most outstanding example of revolutionary international solidarity that I have ever seen.

Q: One last question concerning Cuba. Did you see or experience any racism in Cuba and how would you sum up your experience there?

HUEY: No I did not observe any racism in Cuba.

The Cuban people have been very conscious of problems of racial and sexual discrimination. President Castro makes constant reference to uniting the people, and the people essentially have no real consciousness about racial differences, much less to be discriminatory in terms of people's various colors or hues.

My entire experience in Cuba would be very difficult to sum up. Perhaps one day I may write a book about my experiences. But, if I could say one thing, I would say that the efforts of the Cuban people toward the building of socialism is so genuine, so real and so very impressive that I debated even at the last minute as to whether I really wanted to come back and fight or remain in the kind of paradise that I was in; where I felt for the first time like a really free human being. Not just a free human being in my mind, as I am, who refuses to be shackled by any oppressive forces, but as a human being in mind and in body; who could walk the streets with dignity; who could live and share work, laughter and tears with human beings in a direct way; who could strip myself for the first time of the needed sophistication of dealing with a society or a government that is bent on the destruction of human things; who could share with other human beings a positive life experience. That would be the most simplistic way I could sum up those years in the Republic of Cuba.

Q: I know you've gone over this many times, but what factors motivated you to return to the U.S.?

HUEY: The essence of my motivation was that I knew all along, when I left and when I was in Cuba, that I would have to return, because my struggle was not in Cuba but inside the U.S. — where the contradictions are so high between the haves and the have-nots, the poor and the rich, the working people and the employers, the businessmen. I have devoted my life to changing and resolving those contradictions and making life better for all human beings. I never intended to remain in Cuba for a much longer period of time than I did.

CONCRETE REALITY

I also considered the concrete reality that the people of the U.S. had a lifting in their political consciousness. They had seen the events of Watergate and other events that led them to begin to question, in large numbers, the right of a government to be so all-powerful over the people, who are supposed to govern themselves. They had seen the specifics that the Church Committee revealed regarding our Party and myself and had begun to realize that many things that had been said about the Black Panther Party were part of the plan of the same government that carries out such activities as the Watergate break-in, etc.

I saw that while Jimmy Carter and the whole Presidential phenomenon was not the most positive thing that I could think of, as it still represented the voice of the corporate business elite, it was a far cry from a Richard Nixon. I saw that Jerry Brown was not Ronald Reagan and, just before I returned, that Lionel Wilson was not John Reading.

Beyond these factors, I saw that people were beginning in general to have a lifting of their consciousness, a real gain in their understanding of the political and economic phenomena in this country. I thought that a more positive arena existed for me to return to be able to prove my innocence — because I was not going to be presumed innocent, as I had not been. I thought conditions existed for that to be positive and therefore for our Party to once again expose the forces of the government that are set about the business to destroy us. I returned to show all these things and to a climate that I felt was more positive in that sense.

Q: Do you think that conditions have changed or that consciousness has risen to the point of supposing you will receive a fair trial?

HUEY: I think the question of a fair trial is a question of whether it is fair in the first place that these charges have been leveled against me and that they still remain. The answer to that is, no, these charges are unfair.

But this does not mean that the people cannot create the arena that will allow for a fair trial to go on despite the machinations of the government. Just as the people were duped into creating a reactionary arena around Sacco and Vanzetti, the people's eyes have been opened — at least in these 50 years certainly much more than then — and they can create that same kind of arena to allow me to receive a fair trial.

In that sense, I think that ultimately a fair trial is possible, although it is not probable that the court or the system of justice in this country will attempt to do that.

An example is the manner in which the district attorney's office here in Alameda County moved against me in the incident in Toronto, Canada. The D.A. actually lied in an effort to confuse the Canadian government and cause them to illegally detain me according to their own immigration laws.

Returning here, I see the district attorney then lies again in court, and advises the court that I jumped bail in Canada, which I did not do, having made a legal arrangement to leave and giving proper notice to various authorities that I was leaving.

Third, when I was released on bail the other day, I

was literally kicked out of the jail in a political effort on the part of the Sheriff's Department to take the wind out of a warm greeting by the people to me and by me to the people who had come out to see me released. It was a petty thing but it was important in the sense that it demonstrated the kind of thing we can expect in the future in this trial.

I do not expect that there will be fairness or truth that will exist on the part of the prosecutor's office and certainly not even in the court. But I do hope that people will be able to see beyond the courtroom rhetoric of the prosecutor and look into the facts of the situation. If that happens, then I will receive a fair trial because I will be acquitted.

Q: Much has been said of the changes the Black

Panther Party has undergone in the past 11 years. As the founder and president of the Party, how do you view these changes, and how has the Party survived these 11 years of intense attacks from all quarters?

HUEY: It has not been easy to survive the various attacks. There have been many, many external attacks, from the overt atacks of police guns on our offices and homes, to the more covert attacks of undermining our finances and trying to destroy the distribution of our newspaper.

In addition, there have been internal conflicts and agent provocateurs sent in to destroy the Party. We have phenomenally survived — even though I don't think that those people who designed what they believed to be our destruction ever expected that we would survive. I think that one fundamental reason that we did survive is that our Party is not based upon a fantasy or people being paid to do what they do, but it is based on the ideology and belief of the people in the Party that our work is an ultimate service to human beings. We have committed ourselves so much to that work that we can never let go of that idea, of that commitment. That is certainly the strongest tie that can bind any people together, certainly the strongest cement that could hold any organization together.

IN TERMS OF CHANGE

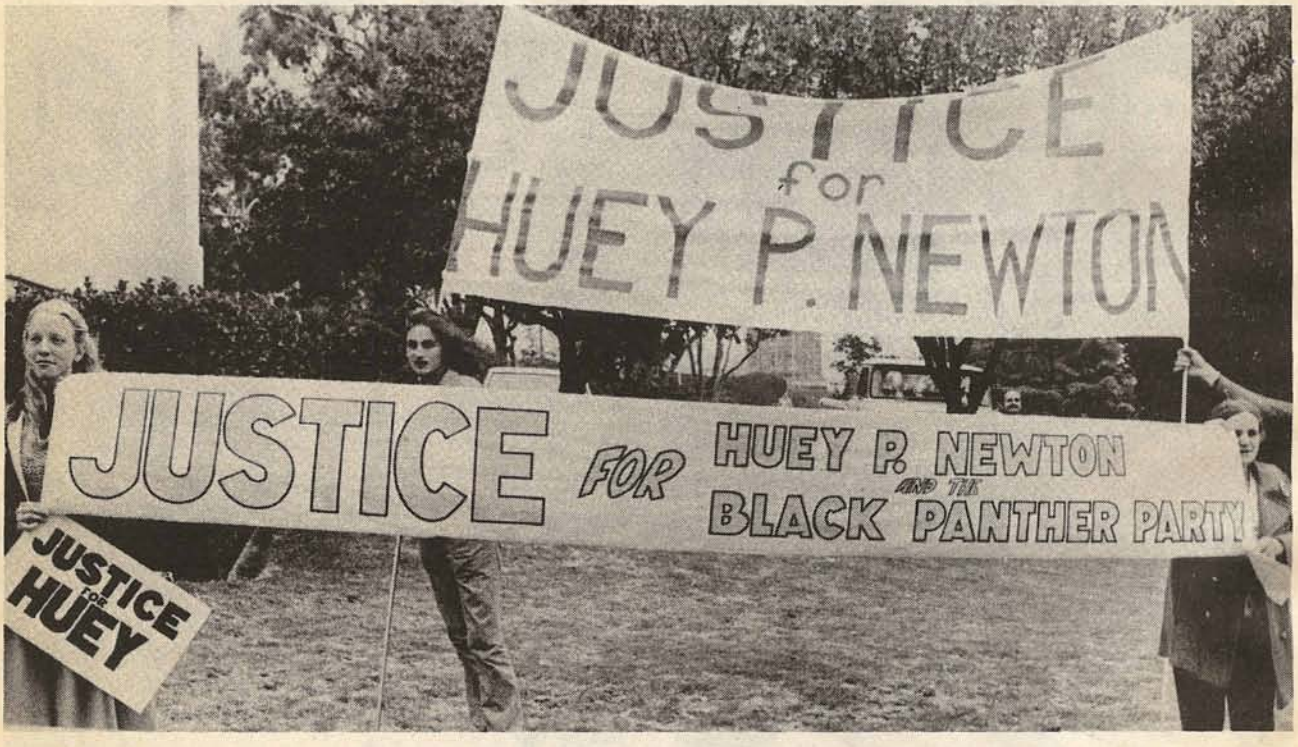
In terms of our change, I think that many things that we did in the past may have been incorrect, but in some cases it may have been necessary that we go through some of these mistakes. The changes came about primarily in 1971 when we determined that we had abandoned not only the Black community but our Ten Point Platform and Program and had become so sidetracked by media rhetoric that we had lost sight of our original vision. We attempted to return to that vision so that the change that has been observed by many people is really a return to the original ideas of the Party as laid down in our Ten Point Platform and Program which, in essence, states that we want land, bread, housing, education, clothing, justice, peace and people's control of modern technology.

What we mean is that all of the things that are

outlined in our program, that are necessary for us to live a decent, dignified and peaceful life, are prerequisites to doing that. We have a right to be able to control our present and our future, and not to have them controlled by forces that will not act in our interest, much less forces outside of ourselves.

The changes in the Party are simply a recapture of what had been torn apart by persons like Eldridge Cleaver and others who had captured the media's attention and defined the Black Panther Party as an organization which it never was nor intended to be.

It has taken us a long time to demonstrate that in a concrete way because people have been so overwhelmed by the sensationalism of the press, which preferred to talk about so-called battles between the police and the Panthers than to talk about the battle to feed hungry children that our



Breakfast Program represented; or the battle to provide a quality education to all children as our School represents; or the battle to prevent the elderly from being accosted on the streets, as our S.A.F.E. Program represents.

Because of media sensationalism and the twisted rhetoric of a few individuals who captured the media's attention, our Party was defined differently. It was up to us then to seize back the reins of the Party, as we were able to do, and put it back on the right track: toward the goals set out in our Ten Point Platform and Program. I think that the change that you see does not represent a revision, but the recapture of the original vision.

Q: You said recently that the Party is a democratic organization with a small "d". What did you mean by that?

HUEY: I said that we were democrats with a small "d". I didn't say that our Party was a democratic organization because I wouldn't want to be mistaken for using the term "democracy" in any bourgeois sense. But we are democrats in the sense that we believe in a society ruled by, for and of the people. While this country spouts that rhetoric, we believe that this is the only way human beings can live in harmony in any society; that is that they act to govern themselves to act on their own, to determine for themselves what is best for them. In that sense, we are democrats.

Q: In response to certain groups' demands in the past for land for Black people, you have said that it's not a question so much of land but a question of technology. Would you explain?

HUEY: Essentially, it's not a question of control of land, as I see it, that is ultimately as important as the control of technology that can work the land and make it produce in the interests of the people. In a situation where a territory is liberated, while we would support the struggle of the people to liberate their territory, we believe that they must also have at their access the benefits of modern technology so that they may begin to seriously control their own destiny.

MANY EXAMPLES

The many examples that I can cite are so-called underdeveloped countries that have achieved peo-

ple's liberation but are unable to provide the basic necessities for the people and ultimately have been forced back into engaging with the very capitalists they defeated — in exchange for goods and necessities.

This is not a bad thing if you understand the plan about which you are involved, but it would be a bad thing if we imagine that merely the securing of the land would be sufficient and that the struggle would be ended at that point.

The Cuban people, for example, are in a position now where it is necessary to ration food and various other goods. But I believe they recognize the ultimate need for them to control the technology that can make the Cuban countryside blossom; so that the people can have enough food and it won't have to be rationed.

When that plan exists in the minds of the leadership and in the minds of the people, then it is not just a question of merely securing land. It's a question of securing all of the benefits that the land can produce. And if the technology is not there to make the land produce, it's impossible for the people to be truly victorious because they can be overtaken again by those in control of the technology. If an oil-producing country in the Middle East, for example, were to suddenly have an upheaval and a revolutionary turnover would occur, people could not produce their oil without Standard of Gulf. Then it would be a question of their understanding of how to expropriate the technological tools and skills so that they could ultimately control the very oil that is their own. Otherwise, if they couldn't eat the oil — and one can't eat oil — then they would be forced back into a position of still having to trade and exchange goods in the world from a position of powerlessness.

I still maintain that this is a correct view but at this time it is a long-range view, and the more immediate struggle for full employment in this country or the liberation of territory elsewhere are the struggles that we have to look to today.

Q: Does the BPP still subscribe to the philosophy of revolutionary intercommunalism?

HUEY: Yes we do, because it is akin, of course, to revolutionary internationalism. The only change in language is the changing of the word nationalism to the word communalism. That word is a word that we coined to indicate our belief that the world is merely a collection of dispersed communities rather than a group of independent and sovereign nations. The countries of the world, as they are called, must be accurately defined, because otherwise we will lose sight of what the reality is and won't be able to struggle against the very powerful forces that wish to crush the poor of the world.

One clear example of that is the move on the part of some people to enter the multinational businesses and corporations into the United Nations. While this may seem a far-fetched idea, it is certainly not far from reality. In a study that was done, a comparison was made between countries and corporations in terms of their economic stability and their economic holdings. With both countries compared with corporations, both being claassified as economic units, this study showed that of the 100 top economic units in the world, 57 of them are corporations, most of them North American corporations.

The point is there are more corporations with a higher economic base than countries.

"We intend to stress youth employment, of course, because this is the largest sector of unemployed people."

This really points up that the multinational corporations, the large North American businesses and corporations are in control of the world economy. They represent the larger number of groups with large economic holdings, and, therefore, the ability to purchase and develop technological tools. Therefore, it is important that the people of the world recognize that they must seize control of technology so that they can in fact control their own territories and not in just a dream or fantasy sense.

Q: Again, as founder and president of the Black Panther Party, do you think there is still a need for the BPP in 1977 as when you founded the organization in 1966?

HUEY: The need for a Black Panther Party is merely to say there is a need for an organization to demonstrate the contradictions and to put forward ideas for solutions to the contradictions in a society such as our own. Unfortunately, in the last 11 years, while there has been a lifting of the consciousness of the people, fundamental changes have not occurred. So, the need for an organization to continue to work and to continue to struggle for change and resolve those contradictions between the employed and the employer, between the oppressed and the oppressor, that need is obviously still there.□

Thousands Of People Suffer From Inhuman Conditions After N.Y. Blackout Arrests

"A WEEK OF TERROR"

(Brooklyn, N.Y.) While Mayor Beame, city officials, and other aspiring politicians played political football with the issue, thousands of people arrested in the wake of last month's blackout were denied their constitutional rights, given excessively high bails, and put into overcrowded cells, creating an abominable situation in jails around the city.

The electrical power in New York was out for 25 hours and longer in some parts of the city. This caused an estimated billion dollars in losses to stores, businesses and factories. Close to 4,000 people were arrested in a massive sweep that took place in predominantly Black and Latino communities in the city. The people who were arrested, including men and women ranging in age from 12 to 80, were held for a week in cells that were not meant for overnight detention, but as holding cells for transfer to detention. In a record-breaking, sweltering, 100 degree or more heat wave, people were held in cells with no ventilation—30 or more to a cell, forced to sleep on the floor, in filthy, overcrowded conditions.

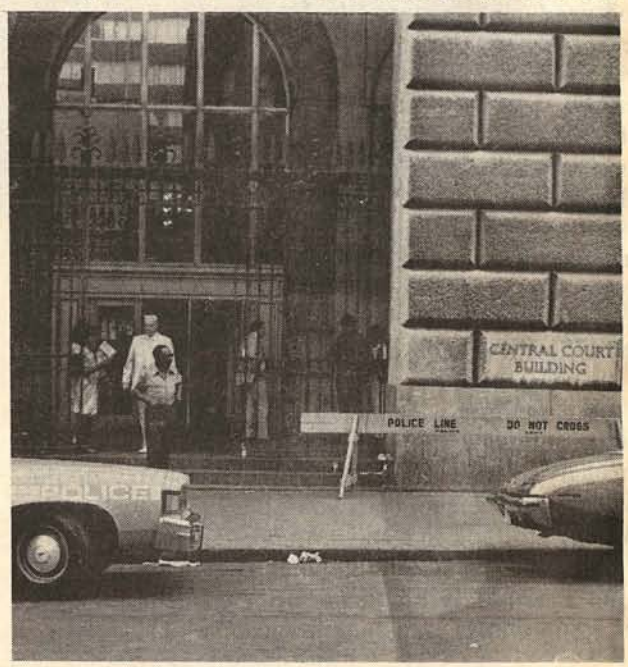
On Sunday July 17 and Monday July 18 KEEP STRONG sent a team of reporters to the Brooklyn Criminal Court Building at 120 Schemerhorn St. Generally, the bail was excessively high. Many people with no previous arrest records had bail set at $2,000, $5,000 and $10,000. There was one case of a 15 year-old girl, with no previous arrest record, who was given a bail of $2,500. Other people were held for over 72 hours and were not arraigned. According to New York State Law these people should have been released on their own recognizance but the laws were suspended in this case.

One woman, standing outside of the Brooklyn courthouse, who had not heard from her brother for nearly a week, was furious over the conditions inmates have been subjected to.

"People are dying," she said, "people are suffering, they ain't eating, people are sleeping on top of each other, pregnant women are sick, and women with menstrual periods cannot even wash."

One prisoner described the following situation: "We've been up there since Wednesday eating hard bread and kool aid. You ate every 12 or 14 hours. There were 24 to 30 people in a cell— and last night they had people come in from the 77th precinct. Our cell was already overcrowded. They had one guy up there—a White store owner from Broadway—who they picked up for protecting his store. He said he never thought that the police department acted this way."

Although officials have confirmed only one death, there are reports that at least four people have died due to negligence on the part of jail officials, Berkley Miller, who had been in detention for nearly a week after his alleged looting charges, was found dead of a liver ailment in the basement of the Brooklyn House of Detention. Other people arrested



Criminal Court Building: Many people with no previous arrest records had bail set at $2,000, $5,000 and $10,000.

observed and described numerous examples of medical neglect in the jail. One man just released from detention related this story to a reporter:

"They had addicts in there they didn't take care of... they had guys who had sugar diabetes. They were sick, they needed medication. You would call an officer—they would say 'Right away' and never show up. I was in the same cell with a guy that had sugar diabetes. He got sick about 8 or 9 o'clock in the morning, and he laid there until 2 the next morning. The police said 'Fuck him—let him die.' He had a chain around his neck stating 'I am a diabetic. In case of emergency notify such and such a person.' The police said he didn't have no card on him—'let him die.' "

As police swept through the poorest sections of the city, looking for looters, it seems as if the official policy was to arrest first, ask questions later. There were many related incidents of brutality and false arrests. During the arraignment proceedings virtually no evidence turned up.

One West Indian man, waiting outside the courthouse for a friend of his to be arraigned, related this story: "A friend of mine and myself were by Flatbush and Parkside just observing what was going on. The police came. I ran and got away and he got picked up. Those who couldn't run were arrested. They didn't have any evidence, but they arrested over 200 people in that area."

Another man told this story of his area: "My mother-in-law and my wife and me were driving down the street and the police stopped the car and threw me up against the building and said I burglarized the place. I went to Central Booking. They took this one young boy in a truck and beat him for 15 minutes. Nobody could say nothing about it because you would be next."

A mother, waiting for her son to be arraigned, said:"Some of the police on Fulton and Nostrand were telling people to go ahead and take things. Then they would pick up people in the area—a nobody who was riding a bicycle—and say that it was stolen." There were also reports of cops openly participating in the looting themselves, stashing stolen goods in their patrol cars before taking them home.

Despite almost a total media blackout of large numbers of false arrests, the suspension of basic legal rights and gross police guard brutality, there were several demonstrations around the city to protest the inhuman conditions at the jails. There has also been a lawsuit filed by Attorney William Kunstler jointly with the Legal Aid Society, the National Council of Black Lawyers and the Committee for Constitutional Rights. The suit demands the release of prisoners being held in violation of due process of the law with

As police swept through the poorest sections of the city looking for looters, it seems as if the official policy was to arrest first, ask questions later. There were many related incidents of brutality and false arrests. During the arraignment proceedings virtually no evidence turned up.

excessively high bails. While these actions have brought attention to the issue and secured the release of several persons arrested, hundreds still remain in jail.

Meanwhile, elected officials in New York are irate over President Carter's refusal to declare New York a disaster area. After heavy pressure the Carter Administration finally announced a $11.3 million program of federal grants and loans for New York City.

A quick analysis of the $11.3 million program shows that it will create only 2,000 short-term jobs in poverty areas despite the fact that the widespread looting was directly tied to Depression-level unemployment.

As one man at the Brooklyn Criminal Court Building put it:

"It wasn't the people's fault. This is a poverty area. Even though some of the people were really in there and actually got caught, you have to have some way to survive. People were taking what they want and what we want is what we need."□

An Interview With Disabled Activist Frieda Zames

DISABLED IN ACTION: MOVEMENT GROWS FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

On Thursday, April 28, 1977, Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) Secretary Joseph Califano signed into effect the far reaching enforcement regulations of Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973, thus barring discrimination against disabled people in all buildings, facilities and programs receiving federal funds.

The signing of the long-delayed implementation regulations was a significant victory for disabled people. It was a victory born from a courageous nationwide struggle which included a 23 day sit-in in the San Francisco HEW office, overnight sit-ins in at least three other cities, demonstrations in each of the cities where the 10 HEW regions are based and several days of demonstrations in Washington confronting Jimmy Carter and Califano until the regulations were signed.

Following is an interview with Frieda Zames, president of the Metropolitan New York Chapter of Disabled In Action (DIA), conducted by KEEP STRONG. DIA is one of the oldest disabled rights groups, and was one of the participants in the recent successful nationwide campaign. Ms. Zames is a mathematics professor and has been an activist in the struggles of disabled people for several years.

KEEP STRONG: When did Disabled In Action start?

FRIEDA: It started in 1970. A woman named Judy Heumann wanted to be a public school teacher. She had graduated from Long Island University (LIU). The rules at the time said that you couldn't be a public school teacher if you were disabled, on the grounds that you would be a fire hazard because, in the case of fire, you couldn't move the children out. Judy went to court and she won her case and she became a public school teacher.

Around that issue Judy got a lot of support. LIU had already been made accessible for disabled people so there were a lot of disabled students on the LIU campus. She got so many letters of support that she started the disabled movement and eventually founded Disabled In Action.

KEEP STRONG: When did the implementation of Section 504 first become an issue?

FRIEDA: In 1973 Nixon would not sign the Rehabilitation Act which Section 504 is part of. Disabled groups from all over the country went to Washington and demonstrated, and DIA was one of the groups. The demonstrations went out on the television and were well publicized. By one of the biggest votes in history, Nixon's veto was overriden. At that time, Section 504, which is considered the civil rights act for disabled people, was signed. Section 504 is the last section of the Rehabilitation Act, and it simply states that you cannot discriminate against a disabled person on the basis of disability in any program that gets federal assistance.

"Suddenly it dawned on us that we had our own movement to get involved in...We are sprouting up all over the country in one form or another."

While campaigning, Carter said it was disgraceful that the Nixon administration wouldn't sign the regulations in over three years. He promised to have the regulations signed if he were elected. When he was elected he didn't sign. We gave him a deadline. We said, "You promised, it's been a long time; we're giving you until April 4. If you don't sign it, or have Califano, the Secretary of HEW sign it, then we'll have nationwide demonstrations."

KEEP STRONG: What is the significance of the 504 regulations?

FRIEDA: By 1977, four years after the act was signed, no regulations had been signed, and the act was so broad that in a sense it said nothing. Unless it is specified what this means, then you can't enforce it and that's why the regulations are so important. You could only go to court on this broad basis but not say, "Look, here's a regulation, and this is the way it has to be enforced."

HEW was the first government agency ordered to write regulations, and these regulations only apply to HEW at this point. The other agencies will write to have regulations as well. But since HEW is first, this is in a sense very important because other agencies will copy what HEW has.

Out of the regulations are going to come a lot of court cases. The effectiveness will be shown by the decisions made in the court cases. There's a lot of talk of the backlash, like what happened with the civil rights act to Blacks and other minority groups. There was a backlash and some of the decisions were against them.

KEEP STRONG: What kind of impact did the 23 day sit-in have on the rest of the disabled movement?

FRIEDA: That was just fantastic, that it was an ongoing thing. They said they would not leave HEW until Califano signed the regulations. It was the longest sit-in at any HEW office in history.

Judy Heumann, the woman who founded DIA in New York (in 1970) was an organizer of the sit-in in San Francisco. She's with the group called the Center for Independent Living in San Francisco. One of the reasons they were able to have a 23 day sit-in was because they worked for themselves and they could always get people to take part. Besides the sit-in, there were constant demonstrations.

KEEP STRONG: Disabled In Action did not participate in the 1977 President's Committee on Employment and Handicapped. Why not?

FRIEDA: We felt that the Committee was a public relations ploy. The President's committee is run by business and private agencies and not run by disabled people themselves. The committee would be much

more effective if at least 50 % of its representatives were from disabled consumer groups. Instead of concentrating on "good-will" for disabled people, the committee should be involved in the issues of enforcing the laws and regulations and obtaining affirmative action in the employment of disabled people.

KEEP STRONG: What are some of the particular issues DIA is working on in New York?

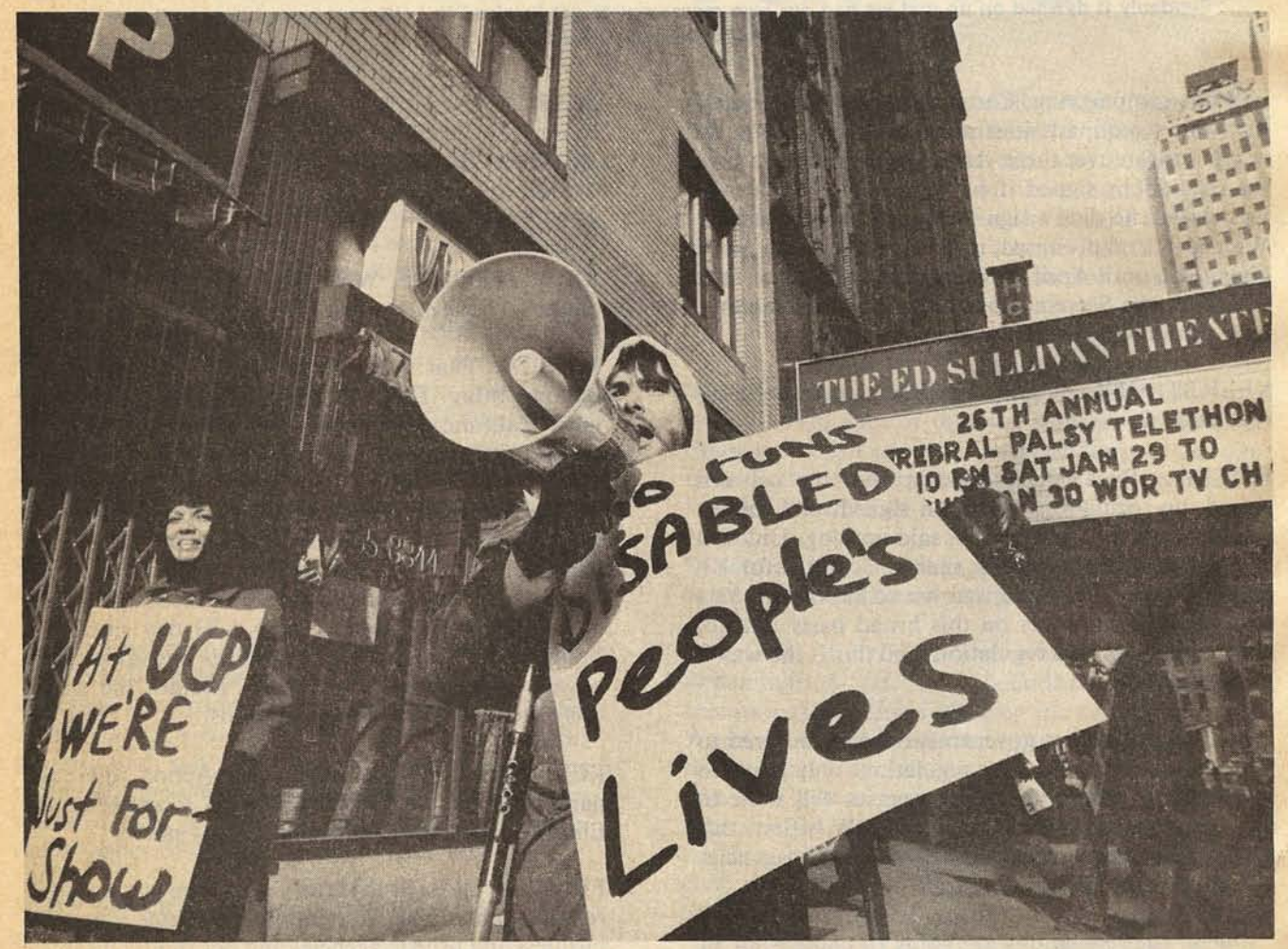
FRIEDA: There was a coalition of disabled and elderly groups who took out a court case on the Trans Bus issue. The Trans Bus is a low floor bus with a wide door and a ramp which means that it is accessible to people in wheelchairs, people who have difficulty walking, people with baby carriages, pregnant women, all kinds of people. It's better for everyone. It's easier to get on the bus even if you're not disabled.

The bus was available. The mechanism was available. The argument that the government kept using was: "We don't have the technology." We said they did have the technology. They had given $27 million to the three largest bus companies to develop the Trans Bus, "the bus of the future," as it is called.

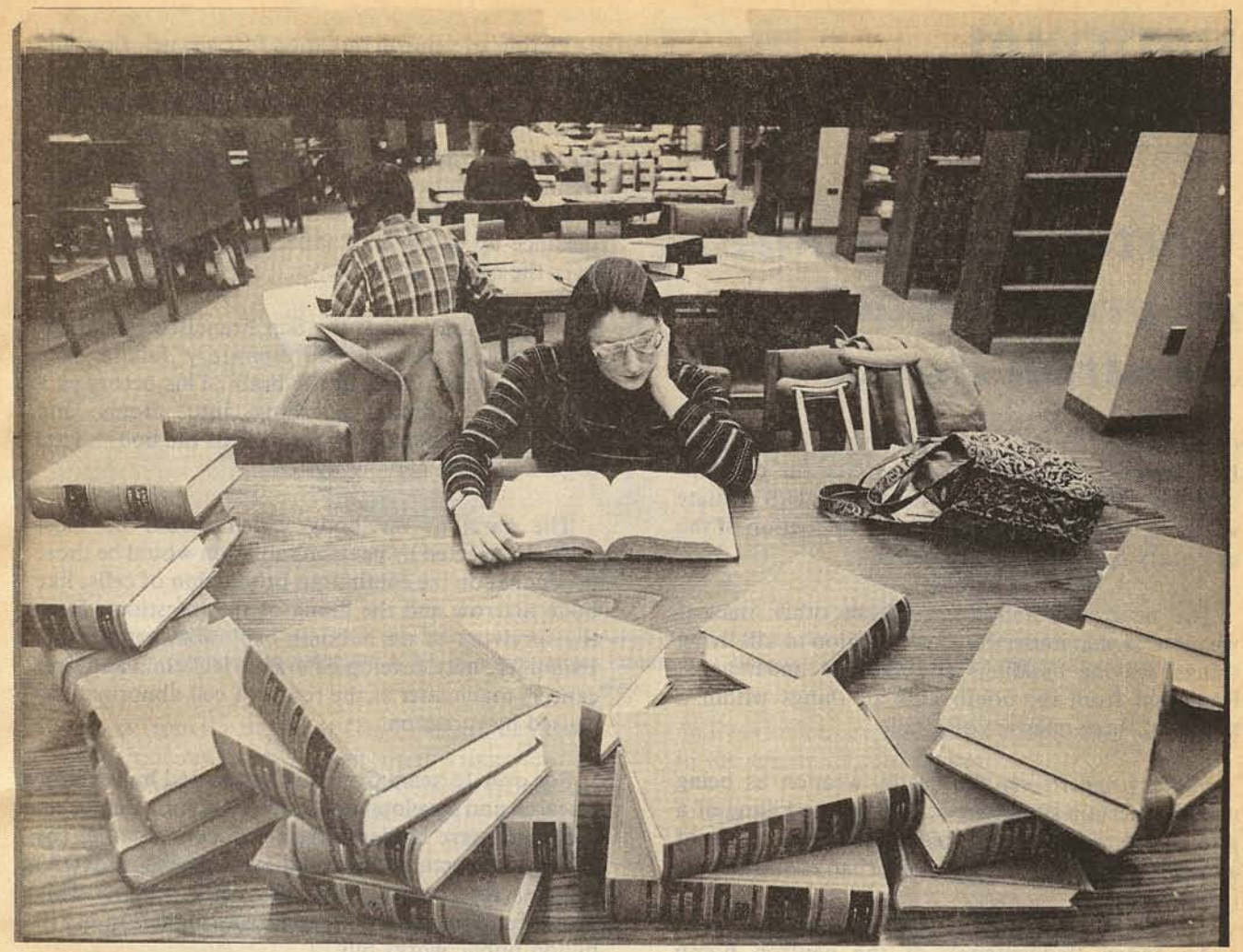
The Nixon administration decided not to require or mandate the Trans Bus. But we had much more say in the Carter administration and they opened the case again. On May 19, Transportation Secretary Brock Adams came out in favor of the Trans Bus. He said all buses bought with federal funds after September 30, 1979 had to be Trans Buses, low floor, wide door buses. So this was another big victory.

In transportation, we don't need a sign that will say, "No disabled people on the bus." All they have to do is put in the steps on the bus; we can't climb and that discriminates. I call this de facto discrimination. We say equal treatment will not be enough. We may need additional help so that we can be equal with other people in society. That is one very essential difference with other civil rights movements.

Another problem is the agencies. We have demonstrated against United Cerebral Palsey (UCP) as an example. We're not saying UCP is the worst. We're just saying that a lot of people in DIA have cerebral palsey. So we picked on that one group. The



"We have demonstrated against United Cerebral Palsey. . . The first thing we don't like is their telethons which show a stereotyped picture of disabled people."



In 1970 the rules "said that you couldn't be a public school teacher if you were disabled, on the grounds that you would be a fire hazard, because, in the case of fire, you couldn't move the children out."

first thing we don't like is their telethons which show a stereotyped picture of disabled people, especially people with cerebral palsey. When these people go out to get jobs, get an apartment, or try to live like anyone else, they can't because there's that person on the telethon who's begging for money.

I personally feel that it's demeaning for disabled people to beg for money. It's a throw back to the time when disabled people were beggars. So I see telethons as a modern form of begging. Lockheed didn't have to go on television begging for money, the government gave it to them. For all these war weapons, they don't have to go beg for money. But somehow it's accepted that disabled people have to beg for money. We object very strenuously to that issue.

Also it raises very little money. The impression is that this telethon is all the money the agencies will get. It's not true. Most money that is given to these agencies is given by the government. We found the UPC telethon only raised 8-9% of the budget over the years. We also feel we don't have power in the agencies. They don't hire disabled people for the most part, and they don't have many disabled people on their board of directors.

KEEP STRONG: Why do you think the disabled movement came about in recent years?

FRIEDA: The movement for disabled people came about, I think, because of the civil rights movement and the women's movement; the combination of the two. When I was in my 20's, I wanted a political movement, but I never thought of myself having the ability to organize one and the times weren't right for that. Those of us who were political were getting involved in civil rights and the women's movement. Suddenly it dawned on us that we had our own movement to get involved in. I'd go to marches in the anti-war movement, but I wouldn't get involved in the leadership because I thought other people could do this better. However, when I came into the disabled rights movement, I said, "This is something I know about that other people don't know." Strong people started the movement. DIA is one example. We are sprouting up all over the country in one form or the other.□

NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

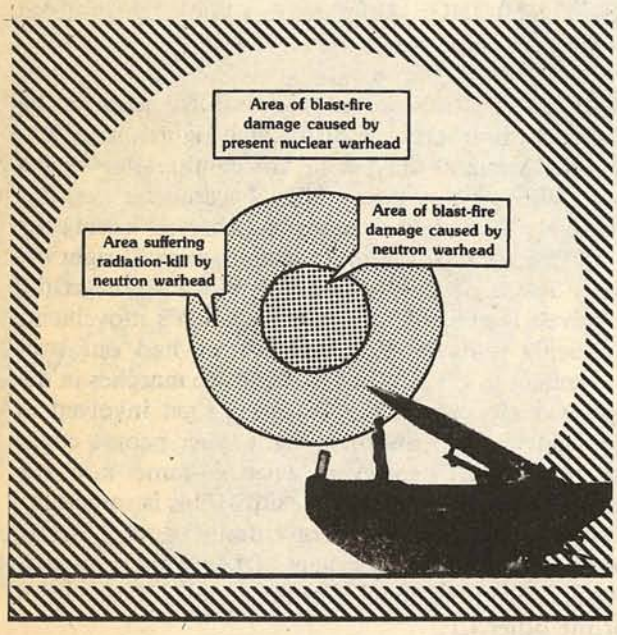
Carter And Senate Approve Deadly Neutron Bomb

(Washington, D.C.) Last month, one day after President Carter gave his support for the development of the deadly neutron bomb, the U.S. Senate voted 74-19 to provide funding for production of the extremely cruel and lethal weapon.

The neutron bomb differs from other nuclear weapons in that it uses neutron radiation to kill living things, leaving buildings and vehicles undamaged. Radiation from the bomb kills all things within a radius of three-quarters of a mile.

Military experts see the deadly weapon as being useful in certain situations calling for the killing of a population within a small area (up to three-fourths of a mile). Thus, its potential use in urban environments is obvious.

An added "advantage" of the neutron bomb (N-bomb), according to military authorities, is that neutron radiation doesn't linger in the atmosphere as long as do other forms of radioactivity. This makes it possible to occupy the area where the N-bomb is detonated within a short period of time.


Area of blast-fire damage caused by present nuclear warhead
Area of blast-fire damage caused by neutron warhead
Area suffering radiation-kill by neutron warhead

Victims of neutron radiation face a cruel, slow and incapacitating death in which the cells of the body tissues are irreparably damaged. With X-rays, the maximum dose allowed for safety reasons is a measure of radiation called a rad, which is really a minute amount of energy. The one-kiloton N-bomb proposed by the U.S. military releases 8,000 rads at a distance up to one-half mile, causing certain death over the course of two days.

At this level, reports the San Francisco Examiner, death would come from respiratory failure or a swelling of the tissues in the brain. This occurs as a result of neutrons smashing into atoms and molecules which make up the cells of the body's vital organs and the nervous system.

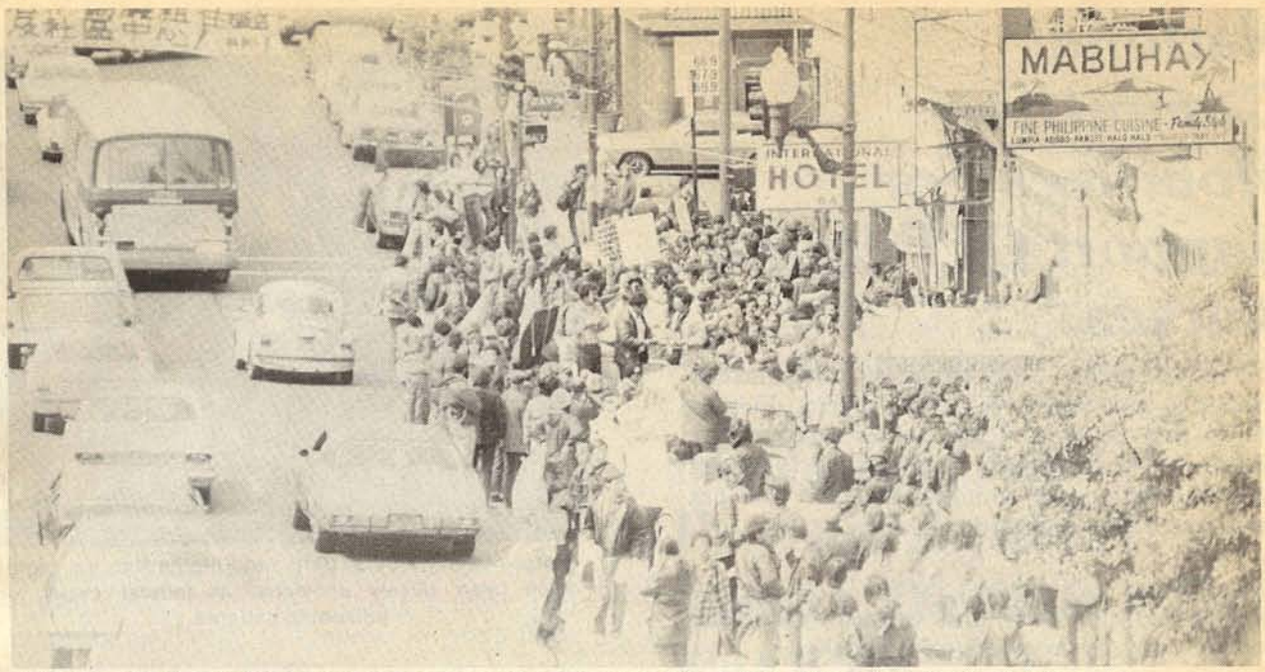
The parts of the body which would be most severely affected by neutron radiation would be those dependent on the continuous production of cells, like bone marrow and the lining of the intestines. Even the survivors of an N-bomb explosion, reports the Examiner, may develop cataracts, leukemia and skin cancers much later as the result of cell abnormalities caused by radiation.

For over 15 years Congress has passed budgets for research and development of the N-bomb. Details on the bomb were hidden in secret documents that the Energy Research and Development Agency (ERDA) presents to Congress with its yearly budget. This year's funding for the weapon was hidden in a $10 billion public works bill.□

New Report Exposes Removal Of Poor From San Francisco

(San Francisco, Calif.) San Francisco's 30 year program to drive Black, Asian, Latino and poor and working White people out of the city and establish a White middle class community surrounding its downtown "Wall Street of the West," is detailed in a newly published report entitled "Who's Moving." The report, which pinpoints a battery of weapons which developers and speculators, in front of a handful of giant corporations, are using to remove poor people from their own communities, was assembled and published by a group calling itself the Housing Rights Study Group.

The group which formed several months ago, with



The struggle to save the I-Hotel was necessary to save what little is left of San Francisco's Manilatown because of the city's intention to establish a White middle class community surrounding its downtown "Wall Street of the West."

volunteers from the Bay Area Gay Liberation and the Third World Gay Caucus, spent months interviewing over 150 community residents and small merchants in three San Francisco communities: Haight-Fillmore; Haight-Ashbury; and Hayes Valley, all of which have fallen victims within the last five years to schemes and cons of real estate speculators and developers with the full cooperation of the city.

The report describes the use of federally supported code enforcement programs designed to force small property owners to invest in major repairs or sell their buildings to eager real estate agents. The real estate agents will invest a few dollars in some renovations, paint, carriage lights, etc., and then double and triple the rents, inflating (driving up) property values way beyond their actual worth, and increasing property taxes causing city life to become far too expensive for many old-time San Francisco neighborhood residents. Major commercialization of older shopping areas has been another effective device used to destroy communities. Neighborhood businesses are eliminated by demands for 200-300% increases in rents. Once out, they are replaced with highly financed boutiques, restaurants, clothiers, taverns, etc. The new slick shopping area is then used as a wedge to increase residential rents in the surrounding area.

In part, the report focuses on the calculated manipulation of gay men and women who number between 100,000 to 150,000 in this city. Real estate agents will divert moderate or low-income gays into areas which are under attack, like the Haight-Fillmore. The effect of this, over a period of time, is to force rents upwards, again inflating property values and working to exclude Black people who have lived in the community for 30 years.

The final technique which the report identifies, involves the San Francisco Police Department and a Law Enforcement Assistant Administration (LEAA) program called SAFE (Safety Awareness for Everyone). Under this U.S. Justice Department program, citizen groups are agitated and organized to drive out the "undesireables," giving the police a free hand to run through the communities, establishing a climate of fear among community residents and allowing speculators to move in, displace the poor and increase rents greatly as "an effective method to remove the riff-raff."

Authors of the report state that these new methods have been developed as alternatives to the wholesale destruction in the middle and late sixties of the Western Addition and Fillmore districts when massive federal funding was available for "urban renewal programs" or that most recently experienced by the residents of Manilatown where the International Hotel sits.

The well-documented report presents a picture of the masterplan's movement throughout the city as it briefly describes the removal of thousands of families from the South of Market, Manilatown and Japantown communities and the developing siege of the predominantly Latino Mission District. The authors plan to establish a broad city-wide distribution of the report between now and October. It could then be used as an effective weapon by community groups to judge candidates for the office of city supervisor in the November elections.□

National Committee Mobilizes For Support Of Filipino Nurses

(Ann Arbor, Mich.) Over 800 people rallied here in late July in support of two Filipino nurses, Filipina Narciso and Leonora Perez, falsely convicted in federal court for poisoning patients—the beginning phase of a nationwide mobilization effort that has been launched for a new trial.

Ms. Narciso, 31, and Ms. Perez, 33, along with observers and supporters, were stunned by a verdict that was based on no concrete evidence.

A Detroit jury convicted them on charges of conspiracy and five non-fatal patient poisonings that occurred in the Veterans Administration hospital here two years ago.

"On the 13th day of July" (the day of the verdict), Ms. Narciso said, "justice died. What happened to me and Leoni could happen to anyone. I hate to think that one day it could happen to you."

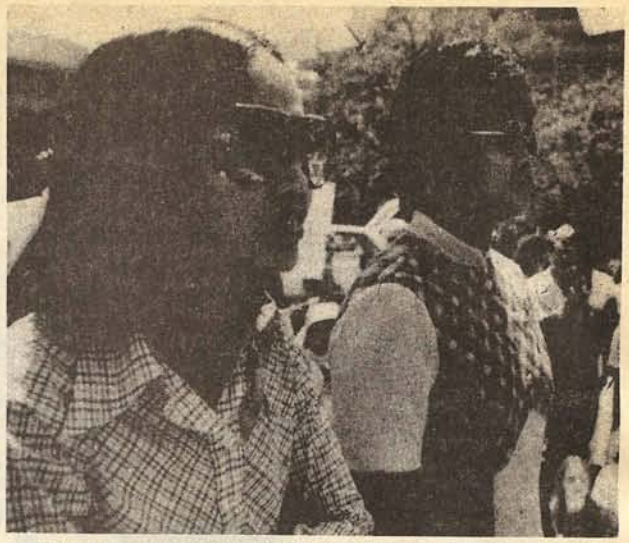
The prosecution's case against the two nurses was entirely circumstantial, which a federal prosecutor admitted. The government claimed that the nurses deliberately injected the drug Pavulon in seven patients—two of whom died, reports the Guardian. The drug has the effect of causing breathing failures.

In 41 days of testimony from 78 witnesses the prosecution failed to produce one witness who saw the nurses injecting the drug. None of the witnesses claimed to have overheard the two Filipino nurses plotting the poisoning nor did the prosecution present any motive.

A former nursing supervisor, Betty Jakim, told psychiatrists she had been responsible for the killings at the hospital, yet neither the prosecution nor the FBI investigated this. Jakim, who committed suicide in February of this year, was confined to a mental hospital after a breakdown this year yet no investigators questioned her.

Supporters of the two nurses, who are presently free on bond, contend that the two Filipinos are being used for scapegoats to cover up the inadequate and inefficient care given patients in V.A. Hospitals.

At two Bay Area meetings last month in Oakland and San Francisco, support committees, led by the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP), were formed to publicize the case, circulate a petition, raise funds and to organize support for a mass rally on the day of sentencing, set for the first week in September. □



Nurses Leonora Perez (left) and Filipina Narciso (right) have been falsely convicted in federal court for poisoning patients.

California Assembly To Vote On New Death Penalty Override

(Sacramento, Calif.) California's controversial new death penalty may be enacted this month if the California State Assembly votes to override the earlier veto of Senate Bill 155 by Governor Jerry Brown. The bill, vetoed by Brown in May, will need a two-thirds majority to pass the override in the assembly. The override has already passed the state senate June 24, with a 27 to 12 vote, the minimum two-thirds required.

The legislature has until September 1 to override the veto. The death penalty bill is authored by "law and order" advocate State Senator George Deukmejian (R-Long Beach). The bill passed both houses of the state legislature with the bare two-thirds majority vote required, bringing about speculation that the override attempt could go either way.

It takes a two-thirds majority of both the 40-seat senate and the 80-seat assembly to override a gubernatorial veto. If the legislature fails to muster the votes needed for an override, the death penalty will become a bitter issue in next year's state elections. Reactionary supporters of the bill have

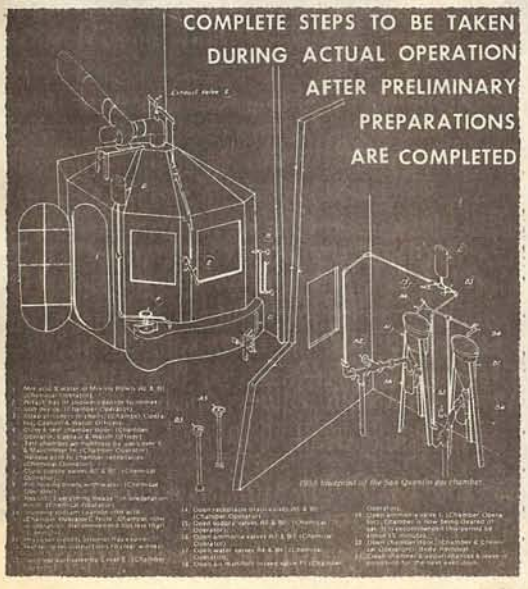
vowed to place a death penalty initiative on the ballot in the event they lose in the override battle.

The California legislature was forced into creating new death penalty legislation after the state supreme court declared last year that the existing capital punishment law was unconstitutional. The state's high court said the previous death law failed to permit juries to weigh mitigating circumstances before deciding whether to impose the death penalty. The new bill allows such weighing of circumstances and permits capital punishment in 16 crimes, including: (1) hiring a person to commit murder; (2) killing a police officer; (3) killing a witness to a crime; (4) murder in the commission of robbery; (5) murder in the commission of rape; (6) murder in the commission of child molesting; (7) multiple murder or previous murder conviction; (8) perjury that causes wrongful execution of an innocent person; (9) a prisoner serving a life term, killing another; (10) sabotage causing death; (13) murder in which there was torture; and (14) treason.

Governor Brown, in vetoing the bill told reporters, "There are thousands and thousands of homicides and by the time you get through the judicial process, very few people end up to the point where they get to the gas chamber. It seems random, it seems arbitrary, it seems irrational."

Opponents of capital punishment charge that because of unequal justice in the United States the death penalty will be used against poor and oppressed people. People who can afford good lawyers have little chance of even going to prison, never mind being executed.

State Assemblyman Willie Brown from San Francisco (no relation to Governor Brown) explained how he would vote: "I've always been against legalized killing. I don't think its any more acceptable than non-legalized killing. I'm just against killing."



Meanwhile, across the United States, 10 other states are currently debating new death penalty laws. At least 25 states have adopted legislation that may stand up in light of the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling last year permitting capital punishment—a reversal of its 1974 decision that the death penalty constitutes "cruel and unusual punishment." In the state of Illinois, Governor James Thompson has signed the death penalty into law, and already the state is seeking execution for two recently convicted men.□

National Day Of Protest Against Bakke Decision Set For Fall

(Berkeley, Calif.) A planning meeting was held last month in San Francisco to organize for a National Day of Protest against the racist Bakke Decision. The National Committee to Overturn the Bakke Decision met to finalize a plan of action for and leading up to the national day, tentatively scheduled for October 8.

The points of unity for this National Day of Protest are: 1) To overturn the Bakke decision; 2) To oppose the Bakke decision as part of the fight for racial equality and justice; and 3) To organize and mobilize for the National Day of Protest, focusing on the U.S. Supreme Court hearing on the case, slated to be held this fall.

The protest will both demand that the U.S. Supreme Court overturn the Bakke decision and will seek immediate, effective implementation and expansion of affirmative action programs for minorities in education and employment.

The outcry against the Bakke decision stems from a 1976 California Supreme Court ruling that the special minority admissions program at the University of California was "reverse discrimination."

A 35-year-old White engineer, Alan Bakke, filed a suit against U.C. after he was denied admission, falsely contending that his qualifications were superior to those of minority students admitted under a special admissions program.

If allowed to let stand, the Bakke decision could mean an end to not only college and university admissions programs but to affirmative action programs in employment also.□

Reprinted from THE BLACK PANTHER

INTERCOMMUNAL PERSPECTIVE

Smith Sets August 31 For Bogus Rhodesian Elections

(Salisbury, Rhodesia) Rejecting the latest U.S.-British efforts to secure Black majority rule in Rhodesia and facing a serious challenge to his leadership from extreme White right-wing reactionaries at home, "Prime Minister" Ian Smith last week dissolved Parliament and called for general elections on August 31.

Shortly after concluding fruitless talks with British Foreign Office Undersecretary John Graham, Smith made a nationwide radio and television address on July 18 denouncing the talks, describing them as a "setback."

"I must go further," the rebel White leader insisted, "and say that after last week's setback I do not believe that there is much hope of a successful outcome to these (U.S.-British) negotiations."

Smith, who led Rhodesia to its unilateral declaration of independence from Great Britain in November, 1965, and who has headed the country's White minority government since April, 1964, angrily attacked the ultimatum given to him last week by a U.S.-British diplomatic team.

The 58-year-old "prime minister" said he had been told "there was no hope of anything other than 'one-man, one-vote,' and no special representation for Whites" in the inevitable future, in Black majority-ruled Zimbabwe (Rhodesia).

The leader of the embattled Rhodesian Front (R.F.) party said that with the support of the almost all-White electorate, he would work with Black Rhodesians "prepared to work **peacefully** and **constitutionally** with the government" to write a new constitution by the end of the year.

Racist voter registration requirements for Zimbabweans—they must own land, be employed and have an education—mean that only 10,000 of 90,000 eligible Blacks can vote.

Smith is expected to attempt to make some kind of agreement with sell-out Black leaders Bishop Abel Muzorewa of the African National Council (ANC) and Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole, ousted leader of the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU). ZANU, now led by by Robert Mugabe, launched the armed struggle against the White settler regime in 1972, and formed the Patriotic Front last year with the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) led by Joshua Nkomo.

The Patriotic Front, backed by the frontline states in southern Africa—Mozambique, Angola, Tanzania, Zambia and Botswana—as well as the

Ian Smith (left) is expected to make some kind of agreement with sell-out Black leaders Bishop Abel Muzorewa (center) and Reverend Ndabaningi Sithole (right).

Organization of African Unity (OAU), has rejected negotiations and has intensified the armed struggle during the past year, having liberated a vast amount of the Rhodesian countryside.
countryside.

In order to control the majority of the 50 White seats in the Rhodesian Parliament, Smith needs 44 seats but has only 37—the direct result of the formation two weeks ago of the Rhodesian Action Party (RAP) by 12 arch-conservative former members of R.F. who were expelled from the old party last March 12.

Announcing the establishment of RAP, the new party's spokespersons said that it would seek to "ruthlessly" crush guerrillas of the Patriotic Front (a fighting coalition of the two Zimbabwean revolutionary organizations involved in the armed struggle).

Andrew Young, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, branded Smith's call for elections "another desperate move" by the White minority government to cling to power. A Black nationalist leader declared, "The war will go on and there will be chaos. Eventually the Blacks will come out on top..."□

Reprinted from THE BLACK PANTHER

ZANU, now led by Robert Mugabe (top) formed the Patriotic Front last year with the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) led by Joshua Nkomo (bottom).

Guerrillas of the Patriotic Front have intensified the armed struggle during the past year, having liberated a vast amount of the Rhodesian countryside.

ENTERTAINMENT

GROUP RETURNS FROM EUROPEAN TOUR WITH HONORS

S.F. MIME TROUPE REFUSED FUNDING

(San Francisco, Calif.) While the San Francisco Mime Troupe's home town refuses to give them a dime, the city of La Rochelle, France, recently supported the Troupe while they produced a new play.

The Troupe — San Francisco's oldest theatre company — was brought to La Rochelle by the French Ministry of Culture to write and rehearse a new play as part of a two-week demonstration of the Troupe's rare collective techniques for the benefit of theatre companies from all over the world gathered in La Rochelle for the International Festival of Contemporary Art, June 14 to July 1.

The new show is inspired by San Francisco's International Hotel struggle, in which a foreign corporation is trying to evict poor and elderly tenants to clear the way for a new development.

In San Francisco, the recently retired Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Thomas J. Mellon, has refused for years to give the Troupe a dime from the $3.3 million dollar Publicity and Advertising Fund (P&A). The fund is used to keep alive San Francisco's international reputation as an art and

The San Francisco Mime Troupe, the city's oldest theater company, was refused funding last year by the Publicity and Advertising Fund. Since 1961, the Troupe has performed, free in the parks, political comedies and plays supporting workers' and poor people's struggles like the International Hotel.

cultural attraction, to keep tourists coming.

This year, Mellon returned the $1.5 million surplus from the P&A Hotel Tax to the general fund rather than support the city's oldest theatre company. Why?, asks the Mime Troupe's press release, rhetorically.

Simple. The Mime Troupe is famous for biting City Hall's hand in the political comedies they have performed free in the parks since 1961, for supporting striking workers' picket-lines with the Mime Troupe's Guerrilla Marching Band, and for supporting poor people's struggles such as the International Hotel.

Robert Boas, the city's new CAO, announced June 29, that a total of $3.4 million would go to 79 artistic organizations. The Mime Troupe was not included once again.

The Mime Troupe has twenty free shows in the Bay Area parks scheduled for the 1977 season beginning mid-August; this is less than usual because of the Troupe's European commitments.

For comparison, the S.F. Opera received $375,000 from the 1976-77 P&A fund, and charges $3.50 for standing room.

The San Francisco Mime Troupe, recently returned from their first European tour, has played at the North German Theatre Festival to packed houses — the show was televised simultaneously in Hamburg, Germany. The Troupe also performed at the World Theatre Festival in Nancy, France, for four days, a festival that is the largest progressive theatre festival in the world. The Troupe sold out in Berlin and Paris, and performed in Florence, Italy, before returning home to open their season of free shows in the parks.

For park show schedules, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Schedules, San Francisco Mime Troupe, 855 Treat St., S.F. 94110.☐

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THE BLACK PANTHER

INTERCOMMUNAL NEWS SERVICE

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY

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25¢

The Intercommunal Survival Committee, responsible for **KEEP STRONG**, has been selling **THE BLACK PANTHER**, primarily to White people, for over 7 years now. Thousands are sold on the street, thousands more are delivered regularly to home subscribers. Articles from **THE BLACK PANTHER** are also frequently reprinted in **KEEP STRONG**. The many regular readers among poor and progressive Whites is testimony to the relevance of this fine weekly paper to all oppressed people.

Of all the many contradictions and confusions that divide poor and oppressed people, racism is probably the most vicious and most destructive to unity and power. So much of the society we live in is shaped by the way it oppresses Black and Third World people, that to understand our own situation as Whites, it is necessary also to understand the situation of Black people.

The Intercommunal Survival Committee also believes that the concrete example of the Black Panther Party, the methods of successful struggle, the implementation of many survival programs serving the community, are models from which we can learn in defending ourselves, our families and our communities from those who would use and abuse us for their own profit.

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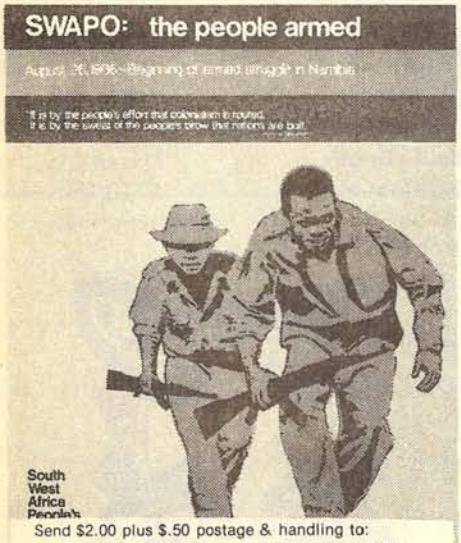

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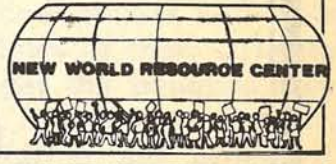

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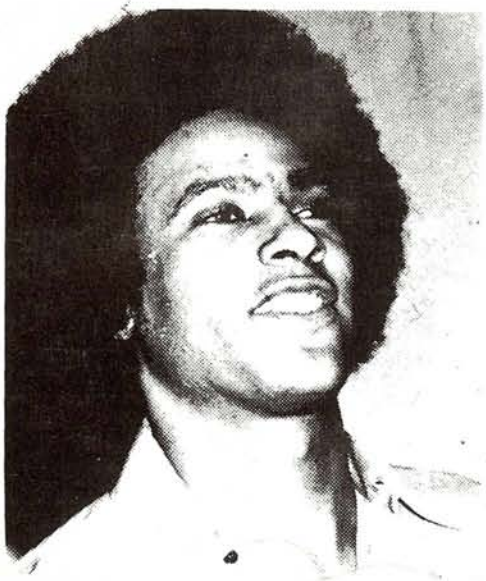

THE COMMITTEE FOR JUSTICE FOR HUEY P. NEWTON AND THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY

Huey P. Newton, the Founder of the Black Panther Party, has returned voluntarily from exile to confront in open court the false charges and the murderous secret police attacks that forced him to leave the United States in 1974.

Spread the word to send funds and make checks payable now to *The Committee for Justice* for Huey P. Newton and the Black Panther Party, P.O. Box 297, Oakland, California 94604. (Or contact us at 8501 E. 14th Street, Oakland, California 94621, 415/638-0195.)

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